

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

3161 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, California

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 1984

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mary Baird
Alicia Ramirez-Brewer
Ginny Connell
Dot Engel
Louise Grethel
Brook Hubbell
Mary Jane Johns
Sandra Smith Ryder
Erin Sheffield

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Lauren Anderson - out of town
Raymond Clayton - sick
Tila Estrada - personal family emergency
Lupe Gonsalves - personal family emergency
Jo Anne Le Fils-Moore - out of town
Ida Richardson - no information

The meeting was held in the Student Lounge at Moorpark College.
Co-chair Erin Sheffield called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

I. Introduction of Commissioners

The Commissioners and staff introduced themselves. The Commission welcomed guests who included: Lee Anderson, businesswoman; Sylvia Armitta, Domestic Violence Assistance Program of Interface Community; Pat Mason, new resident of Ventura County; Bonnie Warrington, Chair, Ventura County Commission on Human Concerns.

II. Review of Minutes of January 21, 1984

The Minutes of January 21, 1984 were corrected as follows and accepted:

Correction: page 2, Section V. A. paragraph 3 should read - Money from the KISS brochure will go to the Friends of the Commission.

III. Executive Secretary's Report

The Executive Secretary was absent; therefore, there was no complete report. Co-chair Erin Sheffield read a letter she had sent to Supervisor Susan Lacey assuring her of the independence and unbiased positions of the two commission representatives on the county's domestic violence services monitoring committee.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Financial Officer Ginny Connell reported that as of Feb. 3, 1984, 61% of the fiscal year had elapsed with 48% of the budget expended.

(Treasurer's Report cont'd.)

The proposed budget for FY84-85 will be the same as this fiscal year, that is, \$10,700. While there will be no proposed increase in the budget, there will be some shifting of funds from one area of use to another in the Increment I area - the regular operating funds of the Commission.

There are two requests for Increment II funds: to change the staff position classification from extra help to permanent part time; and to budget \$4,000 for special projects (the Needs Assessment Survey).

V. Committee Reports

A. Child Care Committee - Dot Engel

Dot Engel reported that Clinton Tatum, chair of the county committee to investigate child care, planned to present the county's needs assessment on child care to department heads and managers on February 22. Each county agency will designate a coordinator to collect survey forms by Feb. 29th. All county employees will receive a survey form with their pay checks on March 15th with a cover letter naming the coordinator to whom they may return the form by March 23rd. Notices announcing the issuance of the survey will be posted in county agency offices. The survey results will be tabulated and reviewed by the Child Care Needs Assessment Committee and a report made to the Board of Supervisors in April.

Members of the Needs Assessment Committee in addition to Clinton Tatum are: Mary Baird, Dot Engel, Brook Hubbell, all members of the Commission for Women, B.J. Fitzgerald, Public Social Services Agency, manager of Fiscal Services, and Robi Klein, Assistant County Clerk/Recorder.

Engel emphasized that the completed survey forms and the information thereon would be confidential.

Those wishing more information on the progress of this survey may contact Clinton Tatum at 654-2886.

A meeting of the Needs Assessment Committee has been tentatively scheduled for March 8th. The Committee has discussed plans to visit the San Diego County Child Care program which was initiated by the County but now is a separate entity, and the Simi Valley Adventist Hospital child care program.

Much interest has been expressed in the Proceedings of the Working Parents Symposium on Employer Assisted Child Care held last spring. Dot Engel moved, Alicia Ramirez-Brewer seconded and the motion passed to have staff give priority to completion of the Proceedings project.

B. Communications

Ginny Connell reported that the committee is making progress in putting together the next issue of the newsletter.

C. Women's History Week Task Force

Ginny Connell reported that the Women's History Workshop for teachers, held at the end of January, drew a good response with 25 teachers, other school personnel and community members attending. The workshop generated a lot of enthusiasm among the teachers for beginning NWHW activities in their schools and for sharing the information they had learned with their faculty colleagues. The NWHW Task Force hopes to schedule a follow-up meeting with those who attended the workshop to discuss and share the classroom and school activities that took place.

A list of Community Resource volunteers has been developed and mailed to the teachers who attended the workshop or who had expressed interest in receiving the list.

The Board of Supervisors has issued a proclamation declaring National Women's History Week, March 4-10, 1984, in Ventura County. It will be presented at the regular meeting of the Supervisors on Tuesday, Feb. 28th.

On Sunday evening, Feb. 26th, the Women's Equity Coalition will sponsor "Folk Music from American Women in History" with professional singer, Patti Holin. Light refreshments will be served. 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Villa Pavillion in Lakeside Village, Camarillo. Enter through the pedestrian gate on Brentley Avenue.

Another event leading up to Women's History Week is "Creative Options: A Day for Women", Saturday, March 3rd, 8:30 - 4:30 at California Lutheran College.

D. Domestic Violence Services

The Board of Supervisors voted to accept the Commission's request and Public Social Services Agency's (PSSA) recommendation that the Commission for Women participate on the county committee to monitor domestic violence services. Mary Jane Johns and Erin Sheffield were present at the Supervisors meeting, as was PSSA Director James Isom. Jan Butler, administrative assistant to Mr. Isom, will act as the Commission's liaison with PSSA.

E. Needs Assessment Committee

Alicia Ramirez-Brewer reported that the Needs Assessment Project Steering Committee has had 2 meetings, Feb. 1st and Feb. 9th, for the purpose of identifying resources, solidifying

(Needs Assessment Committee cont'd)

the project committee's purpose, identifying the targeted population.

The committee has found that they will require the assistance of a technical consultant, someone who knows about statistics and research. Perhaps a graduate or post-graduate student who could use this research opportunity to fulfill some of their own educational goals. Locating and recruiting this technical assistant is the main task of the committee at this time.

Ramirez-Brewer said that some of the techniques to be used in conducting the survey will be mailings, door-to-door contacts and public hearings and testimony. They are hoping to develop a widespread network of contacts to reach the poor population of Ventura County.

Volunteers will need to be recruited and trained, among them will need to be people who can act as interpreters. It was mentioned that branches of the American Association of University Women maintain Language Banks, lists of people who speak various foreign languages and that perhaps they might be a resource for finding interpreters.

The next meeting of the steering committee will take place on Thursday, March 1st, at 511 South C Street, Oxnard, at 7:00 pm. Call 487-6538 for directions. This is the office of Tila Estrada.

F. Legislative Analysis

Ginny Connell reported that the court injunction against the State Commission on the Status of Women has been lifted. While in place, the injunction had prevented the State Commission from expressing its views or recommending positions on legislation. The Commission is now free to resume acting as an advisory commission to the legislature and to again express its own views.

The legislative focus in Sacramento this session will be on child abuse and child care, and on nursing home care and health.

In the Senate, the "Latchkey Project" includes bills by five Senators to provide safe, affordable child care options for children who are unattended at the end of a school day, primarily because the parent (usually a single, female head of household) has to work.

There have been 29 bills announced regarding child abuse. In addition to declaring 1984 the Year of the Prevention and Elimination of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault, the bills generally strengthen reporting requirements and propose improved education and treatment programs for parents and children.

(Legislative Analysis cont'd)

ACR 1, the Resolution officially recognizing Women's History Week as March 4-10, 1984, offered by 87 legislators in conjunction with the state Commission on the Status of women, unanimously passed in the Senate Rules Committee.

AB1, a bill to prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in employment, passed on the Senate floor and has been sent back to an Assembly committee for final wording.

SB1226 (Lockyer), a bill to prohibit discrimination in setting insurance rates, died in committee. Although this bill died, the issue is still alive, and efforts are still ongoing to have a federal statute passed.

SB1364 (Presley) - a bill to increase the marriage license fees by \$5 to provide additional funds for services for victims of domestic violence. Passed by Senate Judiciary Committee.

The recently received Legislative Alert from the National Association of Commissions for Women included a legislative update from the National Women's Political Caucus in Washington.

The Commission for Women has received a copy of the budget proposals for programs that affect women (California). Information on that budget or the other legislation mentioned above may be requested from the Commission for Women office, 654-3109.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Friends of the Commission

1. Incorporation and By-laws

Each commissioner had received a copy of the Articles of Incorporation and proposed By-laws drawn up by the committee established for that purpose. Commissioner Ray Clayton provided legal expertise and assistance in that process.

The by-laws are extensive to provide latitude in the projects undertaken by the Friends; they cover IRS regulations to allow donations made to the Friends of the Commission to be tax-deductible.

Lee Anderson has agreed to serve as the first President of the Friends, Bonnie Warrington has agreed to become the Vice President.

Ginny Connell moved, Jane Johns seconded that the Commission approve the Articles of Incorporation with one correction, i.e., remove the word "religious" from page 2,

(Friends of the Commission cont'd)

The motion carried.

Ginny Connell moved, Dot Engel seconded that the Commission approve the By-laws for the Friends of the Commission. Motion carried.

2. Lee Anderson led the discussion of the role of the Friends and community supporters. Erin Sheffield expressed the wish that the Friends of the Commission would be the sponsoring and actual committee to organize and host the annual Salute To Women Awards Banquet. It was generally agreed by the Commission members that the Friends of the Commission would operate as a body separate from the Commission and would plan and carry out projects chosen by the Friends themselves and that the Commission for Women would be free to make requests for assistance on projects or suggestions for projects.

Work is proceeding^{on} development of a complete Board of Directors and potential membership.

3. A luncheon to celebrate the launching of the Friends of the Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 10th, at Mercury Savings & Loan, 2797 Agoura Rd., Westlake Village. 12:00 noon. Cost: \$9.00 per reservation. Guest Speaker: Margarita Corral, counselor at Oxnard College and doctoral candidate at USC.

Directions: Westlake Blvd. exit from 101. South to the light at Townsgate Rd. Left to the stop sign, right on Village Glenn, 1 block to Mercury Savings on the left.

Mail a check for \$9.00 for each reservation to Friends of the Commission, 1174 Guinda Court, Camarillo, CA 93010. Phone: 484-2681. Tickets will be held at the door.

Plans are being made for an evening celebration also to welcome those friends who cannot attend a noon luncheon.

VII. New Business

Commissioner Sandy Ryder proposed developing a series of presentations by the Commission for Women in conjunction with other organizations to discuss and share information on a variety of topics and issues. This could be an effective means of providing information on issues that profoundly affect women's lives and involving other women's organizations and community members in the process.

Ryder suggested the following topics as possible ones to be

(New Business Cont'd.)

addressed. (Other community organizations' names are listed only as possible colleagues in developing the presentations.)

Feminization of Poverty - Commission on Human Concerns
Child Abuse - SLAM, Child Abuse Council, CAAN
Child Care - Children's Home Society, Child Care Resource & Referral
Ventura County Court System and Women - Women Lawyers of Ventura Co.
Comparable Worth - Women's Equity Coalition, Business & Professional
Women
Gender Gap - Democratic and Republican groups
Domestic Violence - Interface Community and Coalition Against Household
Violence

Commissioner Grethel suggested the topic of Women's Bodies and Health Issues; Commissioner Connell suggested a program on the Equal Rights Amendment.

A committee was formed to further develop the idea of the presentation series. The committee includes Sandy Ryder, Erin Sheffield, Alicia Ramirez-Brewer, Brook Hubbell and Sylvia Preston.

IX. Meeting Schedule

The Commission for Women will meet at the following times and locations. The meetings are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and are open to all interested parties.

March 17 - California Federal Savings & Loan Bldg.
739 W. Channel Islands Blvd.
Pt. Hueneme
(3rd Saturday)

April 28 - Simi Valley
~~Exact location to be announced~~

*Simi Valley City Hall
3200 Cochran
Simi Valley*

May 12 - Ventura City Hall, East Wing, Room 205
501 Poli St.
Ventura (2nd Saturday)

June 23 - Fillmore City Hall
524 Sespe Ave.
Fillmore (4th Saturday)

July 21 - Thousand Oaks Library
1401 E. Janss Rd.
Thousand Oaks (3rd Saturday)

August - No meeting

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Martha Baskerville.

Martha Baskerville