

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
3161 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, California

February 19, 1983

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Yvonne Gallegos Bodle, Co-Chair
Ginny Connell, Co-Chair
Lauren Anderson
Mary Baird
Dorothy Engel
Brook Hubbell
Carol Keochekian
Sandra Ryder
Erin Sheffield
Stephen Wiman

STAFF

Beverly French

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Tila Estrada
Lupe Gonsalves
Mary Jane Johns
JoAnne Le Fils-Moore
Ida Richardson

GUESTS

Deborah Smith - California
Women's Commission on
Alcoholism
Judie Christensen -
Rainbow House
Martha Baskerville
Sylvia Nichols

CALL TO ORDER

The February meeting of the Commission for Women was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Co-Chair Yvonne Bodle. The meeting was held at the Camarillo Library in Camarillo. Guests were introduced.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The January 22 minutes were reviewed, and the following corrections were made on page four:

1. The name of the conference should be "Working Parents: An Employers' Symposium on Child Care."
2. The sentence beginning on line six should read: "The basic focus of the conference will be information to aid industry representatives decide which child care option is a viable possibility for them."
3. The first sentence in paragraph two should read: "Brook Hubbell pointed out that Ventura County companies need to be made aware of many child care options as possibilities for their companies."

The minutes were approved as corrected.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Executive Secretary Lauren Anderson reported on incoming and outgoing correspondence as follows:

1. The National Council of Jewish Women wrote to tell the Commission about the showing of an inter-generational documentary film called "Close Harmony" to be shown on February 21 in Camarillo.
2. Yvonne Bodle received a letter from Assemblywoman Marian LaFollette, indicating that she would like to continue working with the Commission even though that 38th Assembly District no longer includes any portion of Ventura County.
3. A letter was received from the Women's Bureau in Washington D.C., updating the Commission on their activities. They sent us a copy of the Women's Bureau Annual Report for 1982.
4. Lupe Gonsalves received a letter from Ruth McPherson, Director of Affirmative Action for the Ventura County Community College District. Ms. McPherson sent Gonsalves an application form to fill a vacancy on their Committee on Minority Affairs, since Gonsalves had shown an interest in this position.
5. The Commission received a notice concerning Community Awareness and Unity Day to be held on April 2 at the Oxnard Community Center in Oxnard. Connell suggested the Commission discuss this event further and consider sending members of the Commission to attend.
6. The State Commission on the Status of Women sent a notice regarding an all-day hearing on the Feminization of Poverty in San Francisco on April 8. The purpose of the hearing will be to explore the economic impact on women of public policy and state/federal budget reductions. One of the major areas to be examined is child care. It was suggested that one of the Commissioners be sent to represent Ventura at that hearing. That possibility will be explored later in the meeting.
7. Yvonne Bodle received a phone call from Beverly O'Gorman, the administrative aide in Gary Hart's office, offering their services and the use of their line to Sacramento to the Commission.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Erin Sheffield pointed out that approximately \$800 is left in the Services and Supplies Account for use during the remainder of the fiscal year. Our budget is very tight for the remainder of this fiscal year. Women's History Week activities

have used a good amount of the Commission's funds this year, and the women's Equity Coalition is planning to make a donation to the Commission to cover some of these expenses.

The new budget requested for next year totals \$11,900. The increase is for the newsletter expenses, the secretary's permanent position, and other such expenses.

A discussion followed concerning the current budget and the need to stay within that budget. Bodle said there is a need for more clarification of the budget process as it affects the Commission. Suggestions were made concerning charging a nominal fee for the newsletter to those on the mailing list, and also a recommendation was made about the use of the County's Graphics Dept. in the printing of future issues of the newsletter. More discussion will follow at the next meeting.

CHILD CARE PROJECT COMMITTEE

The last Child Care Committee meeting was held on January 12. No further meetings of this committee are being planned at present, since the Conference Steering Committee is continuing the work of the committee at this time.

There was a response from the County Counsel's office regarding the Commission's request to copyright the child care brochure and the presentation book. The County Counsel indicated that copyright issues are a policy item, and they will make a decision as to who should apply for the copyright. Further word will be forthcoming.

Keochekian reported that the conference program will only be for one half day, and a luncheon will follow the program. She said they have secured some good speakers and are still looking for more from the Sunnyvale Consortium. They are in need of co-sponsors from the County to help advertise the conference.

A discussion followed regarding the conference budget and the mechanics of using the Revenue Sharing Funds set aside in the Commission's budget for that purpose. The suggestion was made that PIC could be used to handle the money coming in for the conference. Keochekian will check with the CAO's office on that matter.

Brook Hubbell demonstrated the code file which she and Mary Baird completed to enable the Commissioners to show child care options in various companies throughout the United States.

Keochekian and Engel discussed the awareness phase of the Child Care Project Committee and the possibility of continuing next year with a monitoring phase of the committee, as an ongoing project.

INFORMATIONAL

Deborah Smith from the California Women's Commission on Alcoholism and Judie Christensen of Rainbow House were guest speakers. Smith reported that the Commission on Alcoholism is a private, non-profit organization for the State of California. They have a statewide board of directors, and are in their 8th year of existence. Because nearly 88% of the people using alcoholism facilities are white males, they began working with women as a "special population." Only 11% of people in treatment were women. Today, 49 such organizations are in existence in California to raise awareness of women and alcoholism. They are presently working to improve the quality of the facilities which already exist. "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome" was one of their programs.

Smith also discussed the following issues:

1. Alcoholism is a disease, not curable, but treatable.
2. Women alcoholics make up 35-50% of the alcoholic population.
3. Women alcoholics do very well in treatment.
4. All original studies have been done on men, and male indicators are inaccurate for women. Most alcoholism programs are based on the male model.
5. Women-only programs are always full and have a waiting list.
6. At least 70% of alcoholic women have been sexually abused.
7. Less than 1% of alcohol programs provide any kind of child care for the women in treatment.
8. Women face open opposition in getting treatment for alcoholism.

In Ventura County, women's residential beds are still very under-represented, but the Ventura County Alcoholism Advisory Board has been very active. There will be a public hearing on February 28 to hear issues of alcoholism. There will probably be a cut in funds, which will affect women's programs, so the Commission on Alcoholism is asking the Commission for Women to write letters of support for the various alcoholism programs throughout Ventura County.

Judie Christensen of Rainbow House, the alcohol recovery home for women in Ventura, reported on their progress to date. She said the house has been fixed up very nicely, and was officially opened on December 5, 1982. They have had 15 women in the house, most of them in their 20's. The State Inspector highly commended the program, and most of the women in the house are doing very well in treatment.

There has been a great deal of community support. The Alano Club will join with Rainbow House in a rummage sale on March 12 to raise funds for the program. They still have a need for electrical and plumbing repairs and some beds and mattresses are still needed, as well. Two open houses have been very well supported.

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Rainbow House asked the Commission for Women to send letters of support to the Alcohol Advisory Board and to the Board of Supervisors. Executive Secretary Lauren Anderson will draft those letters.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Newsletter Editor Sandra Ryder reported that the next issue will be expanded to six pages. She indicated that some of the articles will include a story on the child care conference, activities for Women's History Week, a community services list, State Commissioner Hannah Beth Jackson, Camarillo Women's Day and also an article on Commissioner Lauren Anderson, which will be followed by articles on the other Commissioners in coming months.

Connell pointed out that the newsletter is a very important part of the Commission's work. A suggestion was made that the Commission consider printing the newsletter in Spanish, as well. The next issue should be ready to distribute by the middle of March. The last issue for this fiscal year will take the form of our annual report to the Board of Supervisors.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

This report will be deferred until the next meeting in the interest of time.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMMITTEE

This report, too, will be deferred until the next meeting.

WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK TASK FORCE

The Committee needs volunteers to be used as Commission representatives at the film showings of "How We Got the Vote" around the County during March. Ginny Connell asked that a schedule be set up now, and the following schedule was worked out:

Monday, March, Thousand Oaks Library.....	Steve Wiman
Tuesday, March 8, Moorpark College.....	Mary Baird
Tuesday, March 8, Ventura College.....	Yvonne Bodle
International Women's Day, March 8.....	Yvonne Bodle
Wednesday, March 9, Oxnard College	Ginny Connell
Thursday, March 10, Ventura College.....	Bodle & Ryder
Thursday, March 10, Wright Library.....	Lupe Gonsalves
Friday, March 11, County Govt. Center.....	Bodle & Ryder
Tuesday, March 15, Camarillo Library.....	Erin Sheffield

Many Ventura County schools have shown an interest in participating in Women's History Week activities. There are 22 schools on the list, and there are 21 Community Resource Women who will speak at these schools.

NEW BUSINESS

As previously mentioned under Executive Secretary's Report, the State Commission on the Status of Women has notified us about a hearing on the Feminization of Poverty in San Francisco April 8. Commissioner Steve Wiman would be willing to attend that hearing and represent the Commission for Women in the area of child care. Can his transportation expenses be paid by the Commission? Bodle will research that question with the CAO. It was moved to officially ask Wiman to represent the Commission. Motion carried.

Connell pointed out that the Commission needs to address the matter of a new major project for the next fiscal year. The Executive Committee will meet next week to consider possible projects. Also, further discussion of this matter will be scheduled for the next Commission meeting. Under consideration, Engel pointed out, is the fact that the Child Care Project may have a second phase to its work, a monitoring function, which will continue next year. It was suggested that this may be a secondary project, not a major one.

Scheduling of Commission meetings was brought up. The State Commission will hold its next meeting on April 22/23 in Los Angeles. Could the Commissioners attend that meeting instead of having our own meeting in April. It was decided that all Commissioners are encouraged to attend that State meeting, but we will also hold a regular meeting on Saturday, April 30. The place is undecided as yet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Awareness Day will be held on April 2 in Oxnard at the Oxnard Community Center. Connell volunteered to represent the Commission at that event, and she encouraged as many Commissioners as possible to attend, as well. She pointed out that the Commission needs to network with as many Oxnard organizations as possible.

The next Commission meeting will be on Saturday, March 19, at the Clubhouse at 1800 Masthead in Oxnard.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly French

BEVERLY FRENCH
Staff Secretary