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

April 16, 1983

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Mary Baird
Virginia Connell, Co-Chair
Dorothy Engel
Mary Jane Johns
Carol Keochekian
Sandy Ryder
Ida Richardson
Steve Wiman

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Lauren Anderson
Yvonne Bodle, Co-Chair
Tila Estrada
Lupe Gonsalves
Brook Hubbell
JoAnne Le Fils-Moore
Erin Sheffield

The meeting was held at the Thousand Oaks Library, Conference Room A&B, 1401 East Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, and began at 9:15 a.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wiman

Co-Chair Ginny Connell gave the Treasurer's Report, which stated that with 75% of the fiscal year elapsed, 72% of the Commission's budget has been spent. She reported that the Women's Equity Coalition donated \$229 to the Commission to offset the cost of mailing and postage for Women's History Week.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was the decision of the Commission to send a letter to resigned Secretary Beverly French, thanking her for her participation and hard work.

It was decided that the Commission should send a roster of members to the State Commission for the May 20-21 meeting of the State Commission in Los Angeles. The State Commission will send a formal agenda for the meeting later.

The Commission has received the following items of correspondence:

next yr.

1. The National Association of Commissions for Women are seeking nominations for officers at the National Convention June 15.
2. A notice to the effect that the 1983 Business Women of the West Convention will be held October 26-29 at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel. The sponsor is the USC Continuing Education. Contact Melanie Weed at 987-7857.

3. The Women's Yellow Pages of Los Angeles is expanding into Ventura County. The Yellow Pages is a directory of women's businesses and services, and a guide to vital community resources, media contacts, and elected women's officials. The company is looking for women to solicit ads for a 20% commission. Interested women should contact Sharon Fertitta at (213)398-5761, or Roz McGrath at 656-0232.

PROGRAM

Terry Rich of Breakthrough gave a report on the status of her program. Breakthrough, a support program for women, began five years ago when two women sought a federally funded grant to do research on primary alcohol prevention for women. They selected women in stress (recently divorced, widowed or separated in the last two years). Breakthrough, which is funded through September 30, 1983, offers two interventions and measures whether the interventions have been successful. The first intervention is a course in life and career planning; the second is a course in stress management. Breakthrough is also testing five outreach strategies to discover how people get involved and their degree of participation. These strategies are publicity, special events, private sector referrals, public sector referrals, and word of mouth. Terry reported that Breakthrough has learned that it takes two years for word of mouth information to become effective, and that special events activities such as workshops for the community have become very important. She reported that Santa Barbara Applied Research applies these programs and it helps to improve their services to women. Breakthrough's preliminary and significant research findings have shown there to be among participants a significant decrease in binge drinking, in pill consumption, and in cigarette smoking, and a large increase in exercise. Terry reported that women come to Breakthrough with a great sense of isolation, but leave with an incredible feeling of empowerment through resocialization. Research doesn't show Breakthrough's real service in helping women gain skills and confidence for their new lives.

Breakthrough is looking for further sources of funding and ways to offer other services. For example, she said, there is a need for crisis intervention, assertion training, classes for single parents, women over 50 and women without custody. Breakthrough offers a Speaker's Bureau which visits many organizations throughout the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Steve Wiman reported on "The Feminization of Poverty" legislative hearing in San Francisco. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a public record for future uses and featured such speakers as Leo McCarthy, Art Agnos, and others. He reported that legislators are apparently recognizing the strength of the women's vote. He reported that the audience was young, middle-class and white, and thought that extra efforts should be made in the future to include minorities. The morning presentation included his presentation of child care. He said the presentation was not geared to solving problems, but on accumulating an information record. It was Steve's belief that the Commission needs to increase its alliance with women with poverty-level incomes in the County.

Commissioners discussed further outreach efforts, including Church resources, a closer working relationship with Commissions on Human Concerns, representatives of the poor community (such as Odessa Newman), and other information sources such as the County's legislative analyst, Blake Boyle.

As women continue to be active and aware in the County, the following things were discussed:

- . The future role of the Commission carrying legislation.
- . Awareness of women's needs.
- . Public awareness of the need to raise taxes for services.
- . Continued impact of women's votes on society.

The Commission decided to write a letter to Representative Jack O'Connell on behalf of Latinas Unidas for Political Action regarding the Ventura County appearance of Gloria Molena this summer.

Carol Keochekian moved and Dorothy Engel seconded a motion that the Commission send a letter to Alatorre and Foran in support of funding for the State Commission.

The following Commissioners expressed an interest in serving on a Speaker's Bureau:

Yvonne Bodle
Virginia Connell
Dorothy Engle
Lupe Gonsalves

Carol Keochekian
JoAnne Moore
Ida Richardson
Sandy Ryder

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ANNUAL REPORT

All commissioners were asked to turn in their sections for the Annual Report by May 13. ^{reports} covered in the Annual Report will be the Awards Banquet, the Newsletter, the Budget, Women's History Week activities, the Child Care Project, the Symposium, and activities this past year by commissioners.

MAY MEETING

It was decided that commissioners would attend the May 20-21 meeting of the State Commission on the Status of Women in Los Angeles if possible; and that this should take the place of the regular May meeting of our Commission.

JUNE MEETING

Our June meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, from 9 to 12 a.m. This date was chosen in order to meet earlier in June than usual since we would not be together at the regular time in May.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was officially adjourned at 11:40 a.m. and the commissioners continued to work on the mailing of the brochures for the Child Care Symposium after adjournment.

Submitted by Sandy Ryder, Newsletter Editor

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