

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN



Public Social Services Agency

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Commission Members:

District 1

Lauren Anderson
Karen Flock
Arleen S. Rosenfield

District 2

Marlene Alexander
Raymond C. Clayton
Virginia M. Connell

District 3

Lillian Goldman
Alicia Ramirez-Brewer, Ed.D.
Sandra Smith Ryder

District 4

Dorothy J. Engel
Brook A. Hubbell, Ed.D.
Bonnie M. Warrington

District 5

Tila Estrada
Meredith Thomas-Sheehan
Martha Sheffey White

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

MONTHLY MEETING

JULY 18, 1987

MINUTES

I. The regular monthly meeting of the Ventura County Commission for Women was held in the Thousand Oaks Library and was called to order by Co-Chair Brook Hubbell at 9:10 a.m.

II. Commissioners present:
Miriam Albert, Thousand Oaks
Dot Engel, Thousand Oaks
Tila Estrada, Oxnard
Karen Flock, Ventura
Lillian Goldman, Camarillo
Brook Hubbell, Simi Valley
Arleen Reetz, Ventura
Bonnie Warrington, Simi Valley
Martha White, Oxnard
Susan Witting, Thousand Oaks

Commissioners absent:

Lauren Anderson, Ventura
Zora Kirby, Thousand Oaks
Sandra Ryder, Camarillo

Staff:

Martha Baskerville, Administrative Aide
Alice Miller, Secretary

Guests:

Kay Banyai, Frances Rugen and Jean Harris, AAUW Oxnard Branch; Lorraine Pankratz, Lee Anderson and Ginny Connell, Friends of the Commission; Sylvia Armitta, Interface.

III. The Minutes of June 20, 1987 were accepted as submitted.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jean Harris, AAUW Oxnard member, presented information on their branch study on immigration. Members have been studying this issue for more than a year and have gathered written information, conducted interviews and attended informational meetings and workshops presented by others, and hosted a public panel presentation on immigration.

The Immigration Reform and Control Act, with amnesty provisions, which was passed on November 6, 1986, is very complicated. Each person must apply for legal status separately and prove eligibility. That process is usually easier for a man through workpapers, pay stubs, rent payments, etc. Children born here are U.S. citizens if the parents wish them to be.

The ones often left out are the women. If they stayed home to care for the children they have no papers to document their time here; many who worked as domestics were payed in cash and have no pay stubs to show.

Families fear that one member may not qualify under the amnesty provisions. That may be the reason why so many immigrants have not applied. They fear the breakup of their families.

This problem could be solved with a stated national policy to preserve the family unity. An Executive Order by the President could state such a national policy, or the Regional Directors of the INS could state that there would be an indefinite period of extended voluntary departure for members of a family whose other members qualify under the amnesty provisions. This has been done by the Regional Director in Chicago but not by the Regional Director in Los Angeles.

Senator Alan Cranston has introduced Senate Joint Resolution 131 to establish a uniform policy in the U.S. to preserve the family unity of immigrant families.

Rep. Roybal has introduced HR 1812 to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to waive the continuous residence requirement under the legalization program for spouses and children of legalized aliens, and HR 1813 to waive the continuous residence requirement for parents of U.S. citizen children born on or after December 31, 1981 and before November 7, 1986.

M/S/P; Flock, Estrada: to support HR 1812 and HR 1813, and SJR 131, to send letters to the appropriate legislators, and to write to the Director of the INS and the local Regional Director of the INS in support of a policy of extended voluntary departure to preserve the family unit of immigrant families.

Commissioner Bonnie Warrington announced that the El Concilio Task Force and Ventura County Immigration Assistance Programs will provide paralegal counseling for non-routine amnesty cases and will develop a position paper on immigration issues in Ventura County.

V. Financial Report

No end of the fiscal year report was available. Figures will be provided at the August meeting.

VI. A correspondence report is available from the Commission office.

Commissioner Witting read a letter she had received from Beverly Fairbairn, R.N. to Mayor Frank Schillo, regarding attempts to establish a day care center for mildly ill children in Thousand Oaks. Efforts will now be centered in Los Angeles County instead of in Ventura County.

VII. Staff Report

1. The Action Alert regarding the county's budget and the Commission drew a lot of support both to the Supervisors' offices and to the Commission office. The CAO has recommended no budget reduction for the Commission either in the first or second 5% county budget reduction plan. However, all non-mandated programs are still potentially at risk. Commissioners were asked to stay in touch with their supervisors regarding the budget situation.
2. The Annual Report was presented to the Supervisors on July 14 and was well received by them. Copies were distributed.

VIII. Friends of the Commission - Lee Anderson

Lorraine Pankratz, new member of the Board of Directors, will coordinate fundraising via patrons for the Salute To Women banquet. Brochures explaining the patron tables and patron tickets were available. In order for patrons' company name to be used in pre-banquet publicity, reservations need to be made by August 15. Otherwise, patron and other reservations need to be made by October 10.

A donation for the award plaques has already been received. Other specific donations are needed for flowers and recipients' dinners.

Commission co-chair Brook Hubbell requested a copy of the Friends budget for banquet and publicity expenses. Requests for specific arrangements for seating for award recipients and supervisors need to be made via Commissioner Lauren Anderson, banquet liaison.

IX. Task Force Reports

A. Education

1. "Salute To Women" - copies of the nominations have been distributed to selection committee members. Final selection deadline is August 20.
2. Education task force members in conjunction with the Legislative Roundtable subcommittee on pay equity, will participate in the Community Unity and Awareness Day in Oxnard on November 8. A workshop on pay equity will be presented with a moderator and panel to present an overview and information on the national state and local levels.

B. Child Care

There will be a training session on July 29, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., to train volunteers in employer assisted child care issues, approaches to employers; volunteers will then form regional committees to develop regional mini-workshops.

C. Family Law - Bonnie Warrington

Ms. Warrington is awaiting confirmation of the site for the forum.

D. Housing - Karen Flock

This task force is continuing to work on their several activities, including the development of a brochure on housing discrimination faced by women, and development of the administration of the revolving loan fund by Networking for Housing.

E. Counseling - Lillian Goldman

Commissioner Goldman and Sylvia Armitta will meet to review the Interface shelter program and contract. Ms. Armitta, who was present, said that the greatest need they are seeing now is for affordable housing for women who leave the shelter - they need a place to go. Often, if they return to their previous situation, it is because they cannot afford to rent a place. A discussion of second stage housing and the need for it followed.

X. Committee Reports

A. Communications - no report

B. Legislative Analysis Committee - Dot Engel

1. The Legislative Roundtable met on July 15, at which time Bev Edmon reported on plans for the pay equity workshop and other arrangements for the Community Unity and Awareness Day on November 8.

Suggested Future Roundtable activities include: a survey of other organizations' legislation-related activities, programs on how to interview/lobby legislators, how to run for office.

The next meeting will be September 16, Camarillo Library. Time will be determined and announced.

XI. Unfinished Business

- A. The committee on policy regarding supplemental funds met on July 13 and agreed to table any further formal discussion until after other projects already in progress are completed.

B. Commissioner Engel prepared a written statement for the Bielenson hearings on July 16 in support of retaining health care services provided by the outlying clinics and stressing the hardship that the closing of the clinics would cause to low income families that rely on these clinics and the lack of transportation available to them if they had to travel to Ventura for health services. Copies were provided to the Supervisors. The Commission's Administrative Aide made the oral presentation at the hearing on behalf of the Commission.

XII. New Business

A. The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 1987-88:

Co-Chair:	Dr. Brook Hubbell (continuing)
Co-Chair:	Arleen Reetz (continuing)
Executive Secretary:	Sandy Ryder
Financial Officer:	Karen Flock

There were no other nominations. Elections will be held at the August meeting.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The August 15 meeting will be held at 143 Calle La Guerra, Camarillo, beginning at 9 a.m., and will consist of an abbreviated business session followed by an assessment and planning session. Requirements for funding by the Friends will be determined.

A potluck lunch will be included.

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