

**OCSW Retreat, Thursday June 15, 2006**  
**Oklahoma History Center**

**OCSW Vision for the Future Discussion**

Commissioners broke up into the three topical committee groups. Each group independently evaluated the 1996 Vision for the Future, to determine (a) how well the Commission has implemented the Vision and (b) whether any aspects of the Vision have been accomplished or should be changed.

**Point 1:** “The Commission works closely with the Oklahoma legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches (OLEJ)” to accomplish six categories.

Leadership Group evaluation

Overall grade of C. Individual points:

- (1) C
- (2) D
- (3) C plus
- (4) D minus
- (5) No grade. Rewrite to say “Ensure that legislation does not disproportionately or adversely affect women
- (6) B. Commission helps by funding & support of N.E.W. Leadership, Summit

Women Incarcerated Group Evaluation

Assigned number between 1 & 5, 5 = a, then averaged numbers

Overall grade of B minus.

- felt last bullet point to vague to grade
- re (4), taking historical view, funding in last 10 years has vastly improved, and ability to hire staff, etc. improved every year. Gave a B.
- re (2), interim studies, note that Task Force was done in absence of interim studies and gave Commission an A on strength of that. Noted that task force holds more legislative weight.

Health Group Evaluation

Overall grade B minus.

Noted that B minus applied to working with Legislature, felt Commission has not done well working with judicial and executive branches. Wondered whether could have more communication about things we have done. Since are a volunteer organization with limited resources, might want to focus on a few issues rather than diluting resources.

Overall opinion for 1 – consensus, the Commission is doing okay but could be doing better.

**Point 2:** “The Commission provides leadership and direction for actions to support Oklahoma women” in three ways.

### Leadership Group Evaluation

Overall grade of C.

(1) B. Regarding the Commission as a focal point, the group felt this was accomplished with the Summit, Women's Health Forum, and the Task Force on Women Incarcerated.

(2) D. The Summit provides some communication with constituencies.

(3) C for effort. Summit was positive, we have begun working on this (Women's Foundation, CPC, YWCA all have come to talk to us, there is some recognition)

### Health Group Evaluation

Overall grade of D. Discussion was on definition of focal point, noting that the Commission takes information in but does not put it out to others.

### Women Incarcerated Group Evaluation

Gave each individual category a point, but gave an overall F. Felt that Commission has not been acting as a focal point. Defined focal point as information going out and coming in, should be a clearinghouse and resource for other agencies and groups. Felt Commission did not routinely communicate, only routine activity is website.

### General Discussion of Point 2:

Should be resource, clearinghouse, focal point but are not; information comes in but we do not put it out and share with others.

We are now in a position to jump in and do something. Use our website to link to other groups, put out information. Jean Warner has information about women's groups (she compiled these for OWF) and we can talk with her about either putting it on our site or linking.

Rules & Policies says we should have a Communications Coordinator – maybe have a team. Use the website to link to other groups.

**Point 3:** “The Commission acts as a voice for the women of Oklahoma” in five categories.

### Leadership Group Evaluation

Overall grade B plus.

(1) B, recommends deleting “up to 300”. Not feasible as a number.

(2) A

(3) No score. Recommend delete area entirely. We can be a clearinghouse but do not have the resources to provide programs.

(4) B. Hand out certificates to legislators who have carried bills for women & children throughout the Session.

(5) A

### Health Group Evaluation

Overall grade of C.

(1) A, Two recent Summits, huge success

Group looked at requirement that Commission acts as a voice for women of Oklahoma, felt this was a critical success factor and determined that people don't see us that way yet.

#### Women Incarcerated Evaluation

Overall grade B plus.

(1) delete "up to 300".

(2) C – because Commission has not developed recommendations on specific actions coming from Summit

(3) majority recommends deleting this

(4) A

(5) A

Also, thank you notes from OCSW to legislators at end of Session.

Suggestions: Community Advisory Councils, using local Commissions on Status of Women. The group noted that overall the Commission has done more to interact with the Legislature than the executive and judicial branches.

General discussion: Each topical committee should be making lists of women's groups in that area, can then get that information and links to those on website.

Commissioners agree that this is valuable to the organization, want to keep this vision for the future. Commission will take up process of writing a vision for the future for 2016 this year. It will include critical success factors and measurable goals.

#### **Overall recommendations:**

The Commission agrees to rewrite 1(5), "ensure inappropriate gender bias is not written into the laws of Oklahoma and when there are revisions to existing law, any gender bias is eliminated", to read: "ensure that enacted or revised legislation does not disproportionately or adversely affect women."

The Commission recommends rewriting 3(1), "maintaining a strong, viable Advisory Council of up to 300 community leaders across the state" by deleting the phrase "up to 300".

The Commission recommends deleting (3)(3), "providing expertise in areas of concern to women and families" entirely.

The Commission recommends publicizing and handing out certificates ("friends of OCSW") to legislators who have carried bills for women and children in each legislative session. The Commission may also want to write a thank-you note to legislators who have helped women and children at the end of Session.