

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2008, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Room 512A, State Capitol Building**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in Room 512A of the State Capitol Building on November 20, 2008. Chair Chris Morriss called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Fern Bowling, Patty Bryant, Lee Denney, Catherine Haynes, Lyn Hester, Rebecca Kennedy, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Debbe Leftwich, Valeska Littlefield, Joyce Martin, Pat Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morriss, Jilda Motley, Anita Norman, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Nancy Rothman, Mary Walker

Commissioners Excused: Bob Darcy, Sally Frasier, Lou Kerr, Pam Peterson, Patricia Presley, Claudean Reynolds

Commissioners Absent: Toni Calvey, Vicki French, Kathryn Jones, Valerie Thompson

Advisory Council Members Present: Rita Aragon, Marilyn Capps, Marjan Seirafipour, Heather Simon, Adeline Yerkes. Tya Smith (Staff)

Visitors Present: Dr. Nancy Letassy, Janice Hawkins

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that eighteen (18) Commissioners, five (5) Advisory Council members, and one guest were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Health Program

Dr. Nancy Letassy presented a program on bone health. Dr. Latassie is with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Pharmacy. She is also in charge of education and training at the new Hamm Diabetes Center.

Women's History Moment: Adeline Yerkes had us look back at women in Oklahoma doing diabetes research. Dr. Alicia Lee (spelling?), at the OU College of Health, has been looking at diabetes in American Indians since 1982, when Oklahoma was chosen for the Strong Hearts study. That study is now in Phase Five. Dr. Lee is the lead researcher on this study.

Minutes of the October 23, 2008 Meeting: The Minutes will stand.

Reports

Chair: The Chair attended, on behalf of the Commission and the Secretary of State, the UN Day on October 25. She heard Jill Irvine, professor of women's studies at OU, talk

on human trafficking and has asked her to present to the Commission at our January meeting. Representative Pam Peterson is attending a women's conference on behalf of the state of Oklahoma. The conference is on the troubles and difficulties of women veterans. Bob Blackburn has offered an idea for a women's exhibit at the History Center in the form of a mobile kiosk. He will be available to present a project description to the Commission. The kiosk, hardware and software together would cost about \$10,000. Thanks to the OSU Foundation, Women's Almanac and our archives and records we have a great deal of information which we could share with the citizens of Oklahoma. The Chair and Commissioners with expertise in this area will find out exactly what this entails and report back to the Commission with a proposal. The Commission believes this might be a good use of some of the carryover funds. The Commission also asked Tya Smith to make a list of office equipment which needs updating, including a computer, scanner, color printer, digital camera and software which will allow the Commission to continue with the updated Web site and newsletter.

Bernice Mitchell moved to move the December luncheon meeting to Thursday, December 11, at the Resonance facility, seconded by Fern Bowling. The luncheon will begin at noon, and a meeting will be held immediately thereafter.

The Chair congratulated the Health Committee on today's presentation.

Vice Chair: The Hall of Fame deadline was November the 15th. The committee has received twenty nominations and are acknowledging their receipt. The selection committee will then choose five honorees. The announcement will go out in January.

Secretary: There was no report.

Advisory Council Chair: Chair Motley announced that Jennifer Paustenbaugh is recommending Katharine (Kate) Blalock for the Advisory Council. Ms. Blalock was instrumental in the design of the Women's Almanac and two Oklahoman Supplements, and is working on the Commission's photographic archives. Chair Motley put forth the nomination, seconded by Bernice Mitchell. The motion passed without opposition.

NACW Representative: Bernice Mitchell stated there is a NACW Board conference call coming up. She noted a few agenda items. First, the award process will be made non-competitive, considering each project on its own merits rather than comparing it against another Commission's project. Also, there will be a face-to-face spring meeting in April. Commissioner Mitchell is heading up nomination and Board development. She will send the Health Program presented today to the NACW committee. The NACW has put together a draft of a White Paper, to be sent to President-Elect Obama, regarding women's issues. The White Paper will emphasize, among other issues, health and the economy. Commissioner Mitchell will present the White Paper to the Commission when it is finished. Commissioner Bowling suggested the White Paper include an expression of support for women's commissions across the country. Commissioner Mitchell noted that Commissioners may wish to individually join or rejoin the NACW by having

Financial Report: Marilyn Capps gave the financial report as of close of business November 19, 2008. There was a budget revision before the November 15 deadline and the total carryover is \$17,541.84. This brings the budget up to \$64, 051. OPM used all the '07-'08 carryover and will always spend that first before using any of the year's budget. Commissioners wondered why there was extra carryover. Ms. Capps noted that some previous events may have cost less in the last fiscal year. The Commission may consider spending some of this carryover for one-time expenditures such as office supplies.

Business – Topical Committees:

Leadership Committee: Chair Lou Kohlman briefly reported on the Kate Bernard luncheon, which is scheduled for February 26, 2009. This year, the luncheon and award ceremony will be held in conjunction with the OSU Oklahoma Oral History Research Program. Jennifer Paustenbaugh described the project. Dr. Tanya Finchum is in the final stages of completing an oral history project in which she has interviewed nearly all of the living women who currently serve or at one time served in the Oklahoma Legislature. She is finishing up a website that will have full interview transcripts, biographies, photographs, personal and political memorabilia of all the women she interviewed plus photos of all 77 women who have served thus far. The OSU project will invite former as well as current legislators, and hold a press conference announcing the website. OSU will share the cost. The luncheon is currently scheduled to be held in the Capitol in rooms 412 A, B and C.

Women Incarcerated Committee: Chair Rebecca Kennedy reported that the Committee is working on a complicated task. Building on the former Task Force report on incarcerated women, the Committee is trying to move to the next phase. Lou Kerr has begun a position paper identifying nine primary issues. In addition, the Committee is trying to integrate those issues into the three phases of incarceration: prevention and alternatives to prison, the incarcerated women in prison, and successful transition programs. The Committee intends to use this information to generate a second task force or other forum for legislators to continue work on this issue. Debbe Leftwich also discussed the problems of placement of children of incarcerated women; a recent task force looked at this issue and made recommendations, but the Legislature has not yet acted on these recommendations.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on December 11, 2008, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m, in Tulsa at Resonance. The meeting will be preceded by a holiday luncheon beginning at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Motions:

Bernice Mitchell moved to move the December luncheon meeting to Thursday, December 11, at the Resonance facility, seconded by Fern Bowling. The luncheon will begin at noon, and a meeting will be held immediately thereafter.

Chair Jilda Motley put forth the nomination Katharine (Kate) Blalock for the Advisory Council. Ms. Blalock was instrumental in the design of the Women's Almanac and two Oklahoman Supplements, and is working on the Commission's photographic archives. The motion was seconded by Bernice Mitchell. The motion passed without opposition.