

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2009, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Room G-91, Jim Thorpe Building**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met in Room G-91 of the Jim Thorpe Building on April 23, 2009. Chair Chris Morriss called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Fern Bowling, Patty Bryant, Bob Darcy, Lyn Hester, Kathryn Jones, Lou Kohlman, Chris Morriss, Anita Norman, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Claudean Reynolds, Nancy Rothman, Mary Walker.

Commissioners Excused: Lee Denney, Sally Frasier, Rebecca Kennedy, Denise Kinzie, Debbe Leftwich, Valeska Littlefield, Joyce Martin, Pat Martin, Bernice Mitchell, Jilda Motley, Pam Peterson, Patricia Presley, Valerie Thompson.

Commissioners Absent: Toni Calvey, Vicki French, Catherine Haynes, Lou Kerr.

Advisory Council Members Present: Rita Aragon, Greta Stewart, Gail Strickland, Katie name , Penny Painter. Tya Smith (Staff).

Visitors Present: Katie Mocco, Lindsay Martin-Bilbrey, Dusty Crossfield, Timothy Kramer.

Roll Call: Secretary Lou Kohlman called the roll and noted that twelve (12) Commissioners, five (5) Advisory Council members, and four guests were present. The Commissioners present constituted a quorum.

Minutes of the March 26, 2009 Meeting: The Minutes were approved.

Reports:

Financial Report: Marilyn Capps gave the report. There is still \$5000 potentially uncommitted but marked for N.E.W. Leadership. Including that, the Commission has about \$15,488 uncommitted. Most of the Hall of Fame bills are in, and it may be approximately \$450 over budget. Kate Barnard was over budget by \$157, after the billing mistake with caterers was resolved. These are relatively minor discrepancies in state agency terms, and well within the Commission's current available funds. Bob Darcy moved to approve spending additional \$450 for the Hall of Fame and \$160 for Kate Barnard events in 2009 retroactively. Fern Bowling seconded the motion, which passed without opposition.

Chair: Several Commissioners are awaiting reappointment or notification that they will not be reappointed. Margaret Swimmer has not yet been replaced, and nobody is filling that appointment; the seat is currently open. The Governor has not yet officially filled

two appointments. Two in the House will expire soon, and four will expire in the Senate. The Governor has two other appointments which are currently filled but waiting for reappointment.

The Chair handed out two documents. One was advice on reducing stress and managing time. The other was a copy of the *Oklahoma Department of Corrections Female Offender management Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2008*, provided by Laura Pitman, Deputy Director, Division of Female Offender Operations.

Finally, the Chair thanked Mary Walker and Joyce Martin, as well as Tya Smith, for their hard work on the Hall of Fame. It was an extremely successful event.

Vice Chair: Mary Walker thanked the Commissioners and Advisory Council members for their help in making the Hall of Fame event such a success. She encouraged the Commission to include the information about the meaning of the pin and rose at future events. Commissioners saw pictures of the event at the meeting, and they are on disc as well and will be put onto the Web site.

Secretary: There was no report.

Advisory Council Chair: There was no report.

NACW Representative: Bernice Mitchell sent a written report detailing the agenda for today's Board meeting in Rockville, MD. It will be attached to the minutes.

Nominating Committee: The Chair announced the slate of officers put forward by the Nominating Committee and called for nominations from the floor three times for each office. Chair, Mary Walker and Lou Kohlman; Vice Chair, Lyn Hester; Secretary, Kathy Jones; Advisory Council Chair, Joyce Martin; Nominating Committee, Denise Kinzie; Nominating Committee, Rebecca Kennedy. There were no nominations from the floor. The Attorney General's office has confirmed that Commissioners may not vote by secret ballot.

Business

County by County Status: Lindsay Martin-Bilbrey and Katie Mocco presented an example PowerPoint showing the results of the survey, how the information will be presented, and how it will be introduced. This will be provided to the Commission in PowerPoint form. We can both post the PowerPoint to the Web site and take copies to present to groups across the state and nation. The survey itself provides information but makes no value judgments regarding the information. That is, the information is available in a neutral way. The Commission can then use the neutral data to emphasize the good and bad and Commission priorities. The Guide to Data Gathering will be an accessible tool for going through the Web site to compile the data and put it in usable form. Research was conducted in seven main categories, each of which contains subcategories: demographics, employment and earnings, social & economic autonomy, pregnancy,

health and well-being, women's resources, and political participation. Data is presented by individual county, in comparison with other counties overall, and in comparison with other counties by variable. The information may be used to compare Oklahoma statistics with national averages. Other linked sites in the PowerPoint will include the census bureau, Oklahoma state health information, and the State of Oklahoma Web site. These links will be live so if a presenter is connected to the Internet, they may use those internet sites during the presentation to pull up or compare more data. Commissioners thanked Bob Darcy and his students for the impressive research and excellent tool for the Commission.

Web Site: Dusty Crossfield and Timothy Kramer of the OPM IT division gave us a presentation showcasing and explaining our new OCSW Web site. Along with Michelle Crozier, they have been helping Tya Smith, who has done a great deal of work putting the site together. The site goes through ok.gov. It includes information on the Commissioners, the Commission itself, the calendar, Commission events, press releases, and the Hall of Fame. It also includes links to other organizations and sources of information regarding the status of women and women. The IT people suggest having a standing OCSW committee made up of Commissioners who would monitor the site, possibly weekly, and have authority to suggest and okay changes. In addition, Kathy Jones will standardize and help monitor the biographical information for Commissioners. The IT experts may be found at dustin.crossfield@opm.ok.gov. Commissioners agreed to set up a "picture day" for official pictures at the May meeting, May 28.

NEW Leadership: N.E.W. Leadership has contacted the Commission again regarding their request. For our fiscal year purposes the Commission should commit the money, if any, by May 2009, but N.E.W. Leadership may not need notice of funding before May. The Chair appointed Kathy Jones as chair of the subcommittee on funding and 501(c)(3) status. The subcommittee will present recommendations on funding external agencies and funding N.E.W. Leadership at the May meeting. The subcommittee will also be looking at 501(C)(3) status and work on developing an initial application form for funding requests.

OSU Foundation Partnership: The nature of this project has been slightly changed. The matter was tabled until the May meeting.

OU Law Student Partnership: Professor Judith Maute at OU Law School has offered to have law students work on a Commission project over the summer. She had suggested a project which another organization may be doing. Commissioners agreed to think of other projects which might be appropriate.

Legislator Awards: The Commission discussed awarding legislative awards — Friends of the Commission — for legislators who have introduced bills supporting women and children this Session. The Chair suggested one good candidate is Ron Peters. Commissioners discussed the ability to reward a number of legislators. Bob Darcy moved to authorize up to \$250 for legislative awards. Fern Bowling seconded the motion and it

passed without opposition. Nancy Rothman moved that one award be given to Ron Peters. Bob Darcy seconded the motion, which passed without opposition.

Retreat: Mary Walker recommended having the Retreat in Stillwater this year. Commissioners discussed moving the meeting from the regularly scheduled day, Thursday June 25, and agreed to keep it on that date. The Retreat will be held at OSU at the Edmund Low library. Bob Darcy moved that we allocate up to \$750 for the Retreat. Fern Bowling seconded the motion, which passed without opposition. Lou Kohlman moved that we hold the Retreat in Stillwater on June 25. Bob Darcy seconded the motion, which passed without opposition.

Affiliate Membership: Fern Bowling moved to authorize up to \$350 to purchase of an affiliate membership in Institute for Women's Policy Research. Bob Darcy seconded the motion, which passed without opposition.

Leadership Committee: Committee Chair Lou Kohlman announced that the Commission has an opportunity to partner with the Oklahoma Academy to do a presentation on the incarceration of Oklahoma women at the University of Arts and Sciences of Oklahoma in Chickasha. President John Feaver of USAO has agreed to host the session.

Announcements: Fern Bowling announced the opportunity for Commissioners to send letters to Oklahoma's Senators regarding the equal pay act. Lou Kohlman announced that there will be a conference on restorative justice at St. Paul's Cathedral on May 16.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on May 28, 2009, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m, in a location to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Motions:

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