

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women  
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2009  
Room G91 – Jim Thorpe Building – Oklahoma City, OK**

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women met Thursday, August 27, 2009, in room G91 of the Jim Thorpe Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Mary Walker, Chair.

**Roll Call:** Roll was called by Kathryn Jones, Secretary.

**Commissioners Present:** Rita Aragon, Fern Bowling, Patty Bryant, Bob Darcy, Lee Deeney, Deena Fisher, Marilyn Harmon, Catherine Haynes, Lyn Hester, Kathryn Jones, Ashley Kehl, Rebecca Kennedy, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Debbe Leftwich, Valeska Littlefield, Joyce Martin, Carolyn McLarty, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morriss, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Patricia Presley, Nancy Rothman, Joyce Horton-Sanders, Nancy Smith, Mary Walker, and Adeline Yerkes

**Commissioners Excused:** Pam Peterson

**Commissioners Absent:** Claudean Reynolds and Valerie Thompson

**Advisory Council Members Present:** Marilyn Capps and Tya Smith (staff)

**Welcome:** Mary Walker, Chair, welcomed commissioners and noted that all of the new commissioners (9 since January -09) were present and 27 of the 30 commissioners were present.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the June 25, 2009 meeting were approved with the following corrections (motion, Fern Bowling; second, Bob Darcy): (1) Valeska Littlefield was excused. (2) The correct spelling of Denise Kinzie and Chris Morriss was noted. (3) A question was raised whether Toni Calvey had been officially replaced on the Commission at the time of the meeting.

**Financial Report:** Marilyn Capps reviewed the FY 2010 Budget Progress Report for the Commission and noted that there have been no expenditures for the Commission for July and the August budget reduction which affected all state agencies resulted in a reduction of \$121 for the Commission. She also noted that within the next month or so, we should know our budget for the full year and she will continue to report to the Commission to assist us in managing our budget. The Chair thanked her for her expertise and her attendance at Commission meetings.

**Women's History Moment:** Bob Darcy discussed the project by the Friends of the Stillwater Public Library to obtain funds to erect an Angie Debo Memorial Sculpture and distributed a pamphlet which provides information about the project.

## **Reports:**

**Chair:** The Chair thanked the Commission for entrusting the position of Chair to her and noted that the Commission will have a busy year.

**Vice Chair:** No report

**Secretary:** The Secretary noted that an orientation for new commissioners had immediately preceded the commission meeting and thanked commissioners who will be serving as mentors to the new ones. She and the Chair thanked Chris Morriss, Immediate Past Chair, and Tya Smith, staff, for their work on compiling binders for commissioners.

**Advisory Council:** Joyce Martin stated that she is working to develop a correct and complete list of active members of the Advisory Council. She asked commissioners to email her names of ones who should be on the Advisory Council list.

**NAWC Representative:** Bernice Mitchell provided a brief history of the Commission's presence on the board of the NAWC (National Association of Women's Commissions) and noted that although a national conference had not been held this year due to economic considerations, a 2010 conference will be hosted by Montgomery County (MD) Commission on the Status of Women. She noted that although Oklahoma has ten individual members, we lag behind Maryland with 14.

## **Unfinished Business**

**Website:** Following a discussion on the importance of the website, Lyn Hester and Ashley Kehl volunteered to assist staff with moving forward on this project.

**Commissioner Bios:** Kathy Jones encouraged commissioners to forward their bios to her.

**OSU Project Status:** Jennifer Paustenbaugh summarized progress to date (interviews, poster printing, website, curriculum development) and announced that posters will be brought to the next Commission meeting.

**County-by-County Status:** Bob Darcy reviewed the history of the Commission's association with this project and noted that the project is almost completed.

**N. E. W. Leadership:** The Chair shared an email she had received from Katie Fitzgerald. Several commissioners provided a history of N. E. W. Leadership and its goal of encouraging and assisting young women prepare for careers of public service (elected and appointed). The Chair asked, "Do we want a representative from N. E. W. Leadership to attend and address a meeting of the Commission?" She will forward the email to commissioners. A decision will not be made until the finance committee has met.

**Review of Topical Committees:** The Chair announced that instead of discussing these at the Retreat, commissioners voted to put major efforts into one topic (Women Incarcerated) leading up to a Summit.

**Women Incarcerated:** Rebecca Kennedy distributed handouts re/ the Solutions Summit 2010 and stressed that this will be a different type of summit from what the Commission has previously held. She stressed the importance of a broad range of partners – foundations, agencies, organizations, appointing authorities – working with the Commission. She noted that by December, the Commission should have a broad idea of the format for the Summit and by January, solidify the list of strategies to introduce at the Summit. Discussion was held re/ the format used by the Institute for Child Advocacy in developing its legislative agenda. Committee chairs will be:

Chairs of the Summit	Rebecca Kennedy, Deena Fisher
Chairs of Prevention Co.	Bernice Mitchell, Adeline Yerkes
Chairs of Intervention & Redirection Co.	Lou Kohlman, Nancy Rothman
Chairs of Recidivism Reduction Co.	

**Financial Committee and Personnel Committee:** Debbe Leftwich announced that she will serve as chair of the merged committee. She noted that the two committees are historically interrelated and the committee will discuss current and future funding for the Commission and current and future staff needs for the Commission.

**Policies and Procedures:** Lou Kohlman asked commissioners to forward to her suggestions for updating the Policies and Procedures manual.

**Web and Communications Committee** Previously discussed

**Legislative Coordinator:** Patty Bryant volunteered to serve as Legislative Coordinator.

**Announcements:**

Sen. Leftwich and Rep. Denney participated in an event at the capitol, Aug. 26, which celebrated Women's Equality Day.

Adeline Yerkes reported that the Commission will co-sponsor a women's conference on bone health the evening of Sept. 24 at Seminole State College.

The chair will forward information re/ a walk to end child trafficking, Sept. 26.

Marilyn Capps noted that OPM is the Ethics Commission's liaison.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

