

**Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2009
Room 512A – Oklahoma State Capitol**

Call to Order: Mary Walker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Roll Call: Kathryn Jones, Secretary, called roll and announced the presence of a quorum.

Commissioners Present: Deena Fisher, Catherine Haynes, Lyn Hester, Kathryn Jones, Ashley Kehl, Rebecca Kennedy, Valeska Littlefield, Joyce Martin, Carolyn McLarty, Bernice Mitchell, Chris Morriss, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Pam Peterson, Claudean Reynolds, Nancy Rothman, Nancy Smith, Mary Walker, Adeline Yerkes

Commissioners Excused: Rita Aragon, Fern Bowling, Patty Bryant, Bob Darcy, Lee Denney, Marilyn Harmon, Denise Kinzie, Lou Kohlman, Debbe Leftwich, Patricia Presley, Joyce Horton Sanders

Commissioners Absent: Valerie Thompson

Guests: Debbie Boyer, SPHR, Administrator, Quality and Operational Services, Division of Female Offender Operations; Cheri Fuller; Senator Constance Johnson

Minutes: The minutes of the October 22, 2009, meeting were approved as distributed (motion, Bernice Mitchell; second, Catherine Haynes).

Financial Report: The financial report as of October 31, 2009, was included in the agenda folder distributed at the meeting. No discussion was held.

Women's History Moment: Joyce Martin, Chairman of the Leadership Committee, discussed the importance of celebrating women's achievements and suggested that those present send a card of thanks to those who've been important to them (e.g., a teacher, a mother). A suggestion was made that the OCSW send a card to those who aren't recognized but should be.

Chair's Report:

Nametags: Chris Morriss, Marilyn Capps, and Tya Smith were thanked for initiating and completing this project.

Letters: Per the OCSW's charge to her, letters have been sent to Gov. Henry Bellmon's daughters and they will also be sent to the OCSW's appointing authorities

Recent Lengthy E-Mail: She noted that she had had several inquiries and thought this form of communication would be most effective.

Vice Chair's Report:

Summit: Commissioners approved the proposed date of April 30, 2010, and the location of the National Guard Training Center in OKC (motion, Lyn Hester; second, Carolyn McLarty).

Dec. 10 Meeting: The date of Dec. 10, 2009, and the location of TCC/Metro Campus was approved (motion, Jennifer Paustenbaugh; second, Bernice Mitchell). Format: 10:30 – Steering Committee. Noon – Working Lunch w/ members of the Tulsa Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women as guests. 1:30 – Commission meeting. Following a discussion of whether to bring gifts for women incarcerated to give to their children, Advisory Council member Laura Pitman noted that she would talk to the warden re/ the appropriate procedure. A motion to present Rep. Ron Peters an award to be named the Humanitarian Award was defeated (motion, Nancy Rothman; second, Rebecca Kennedy) A motion to present Rep. Ron Peters an award to be named the Guardian Award passed (motion, Deena Fisher; second, Rebecca Kennedy). Adeline Yerkes moved that a budget of \$700 be allotted for the December retreat, that members of the Tulsa Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women be invited to attend, that Rep. Ron Peters and a guest be invited to attend, and that various members of the Summit Co. who will be participating in the steering committee and the working luncheon be invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Valeska Littlefield and passed (Pam Peterson abstained).

Study of Oklahoma Voters: She noted that great publicity had resulted from The Oklahoma Voter 2008 study as led by Commissioner Darcy and that copies of media clips were in the agenda packets.

Secretary: No report

Advisory Council: Rebecca Kennedy nominated Debby Boyer for membership on the Advisory Council. Joyce Martin moved the nomination, it was seconded by Bernice Mitchell and passed.

NAWC Representative: Bernice Mitchell noted that it was time for renewal of membership to the NAWC by the OCSW and affiliates. She will be participating in a NAWC Board meeting this Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009.

Unfinished Business:

Women Legislators: Jennifer Paustenbaugh announced a letter with the Chair's signature will be included in the mailing to accompany the poster on women legislators. Per Rebecca Kennedy's request, a Save the Date notice re/ the Solutions' Summit will also be included.

Policies and Procedures: In the absence of Lou Kohlman, chairman, the Chair urged commissioners to review the P and P (as distributed in the binders at the August meeting) so the procedure for making additions, etc. can follow in a timely manner.

Website and Communications: Lyn Hester announced that the website is "up." Commissioners were requested to let Tya know of any corrections that need to be made.

Kate Barnard Luncheon: Kathryn Jones announced that she will be contacting members of the Leadership Co. within the next few weeks re/ logistics of the luncheon.

Health Committee: Adeline Yerkes announced that today (Nov. 19, 2009) is National No Smoking Day.

Solutions Summit: Comments by Rebecca Kennedy:

The Summit can incorporate all topic committees.

A microwebsite especially for the conference and this issue will be established.

A forum will be held Jan. 26, 2010, highlighting women incarcerated. This is one of many difficult conversations being had in the state. She suggested that this could be a target date to aim for a public announcement of the Summit. The contact for this forum is Amy Santee at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

She had participated in a DOC Academy and considered it a valuable learning experience and suggested that perhaps the Commission could hold a miniacademy for commissioners and partners.

She requested that commissioners complete the form with suggestions of those who should be invited to the Summit.

She noted that she wants an outcome of the Summit to be 1 or 2 "going forward" goals in each area.

She referenced MADD as a model for citizen recognition of a societal issue.

Senator Constance Johnson thanked the Commission for its interest in the issue of women incarcerated and distributed a flyer on an upcoming Oklahoma Criminal Justice Symposium/Legislation Preview.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.