



The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women was created in 1994 as a result of Enrolled Senate Bill 1147, Second Session of the 44th Legislature of Oklahoma. The measure, which added several new sections to title 74 O. S., defined the legislative intent and the basis of the Commission's charge: "In furtherance of its obligation to advance the general welfare of the state, the Legislature is cognizant of its duty to give all citizens their opportunities to reach their full potential. Therefore, the Legislature declares its intent that any inhibiting conditions caused by any factors which impede the ability of an individual to reach the full potential of that individual are matters of public concern." Such intent covers a broad range of issues and potential actions to be addressed by the Commission.

Mission

The Mission of the Commission is to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma.

Vision

The Vision of the Commission is to advocate social justice, gender equity, and equal opportunity through effective leadership.

Duties

- Act as an advisory entity on equity issues relating to gender bias not only to state agencies and employees, but to communities, organizations and business of this state which desire the services of the Commission;
- Act as a monitor of legislation as to whether the legislation is discriminatory toward one gender or the other or whether the gender of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement of the legislation;
- Act as a resource and clearinghouse for research on issues related to women and gender bias;
- Conduct meetings and seminar within the state as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission; and
- Report Annually to the Governor and Legislature on activities.

Annual Activities and Accomplishments

During state fiscal year 2011 the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women conducted the following activities in support of its duties:

“Act as an advisory entity on equity issues relating to gender bias not only to state agencies and employees, but to communities, organizations and business of this state which desire the services of the Commission.”

- The Commission partnered with Young Leadership Initiative, Carl Albert Center of the University of Oklahoma on “The Appointments Project (TAP). The Appointment Project is an effort to identify qualified women to serve in elected or appointed positions. Members of the Commission served as advisors by assisting the Project with dissemination of the project’s materials and with identifying qualified women to seek appointments.
- Published and disseminated the *Solutions, Initiatives, Strategies to Reduce the Incarceration of Oklahoma Women: A Public Agenda Action Plan – plan disseminated to over 1000 agencies, organizations, coalitions and individuals*
- Served in an advisory role and active partner in the “Count the Costs” Coalition. Count the Costs is a nonpartisan, statewide effort to identify evidence-based strategies which lower the incarceration rate of women in Oklahoma. Statewide policy groups, nonprofits, key agencies, organizations, advocates and stakeholders are taking part in this effort. The purpose of this partnership is to build statewide awareness, promote innovative and effective solutions using best practices, and effect change through facilitated partnerships and collaboration. As a Commission, members served as participants in “Effective Criminal Strategies” symposium held March 2011.
- The Legislative Committee of the Commission tracks and reviews bills related to women and family issues during the legislative session. During the regular meetings, proposed legislation is presented.
- 2011 Kate Barnard Award and Luncheon
On February 24, 2011, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women held its annual Kate Barnard luncheon and award ceremony at the Oklahoma Capitol. The purpose of the award is to recognize women who have made a difference in Oklahoma through outstanding service as public servants. In 2011, the OCSW presented the award to Edmond Mayor Patrice Douglas and Deputy Secretary of Commerce Norma L. Noble. More information about the award and biographies of previous recipients can be found at: http://www.ok.gov/ocsw/The_Kate_Barnard_Award/.
- On April 7, 2011, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women held the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Oklahoma History Center. Eight women were inducted into the Hall of Fame

Dr. Laura Boyd (Norman)
Joy D. Culbreath (Durant)
Ardina R. Moore (Miami)
Kathryn L. Taylor (Tulsa)

Minister Chloe L. Brown (Tulsa)
Marcia J. Mitchell (Tulsa)
Dr. Cynthia S. Ross (Lawton)
Helen Harrod Thompson (Ardmore)

- Commissioners also serve on national committees or boards to foster equity: National Association of Commissions on Women and 2020 Agenda for Women.

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“Act as a resource and clearinghouse for research on issues related to women and gender bias.”

- The Communications, Kate Barnard and Hall of Fame Committees of the Commission developed a resource page on the Commission’s website. This resource page features key links to both state and national websites
- Published and disseminated the *Solutions, Initiatives, Strategies to Reduce the Incarceration of Oklahoma Women: A Public Agenda Action Plan* – plan disseminated to over 1000 agencies, organizations, coalitions and individuals
- The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women’s website contains a page on Commission Projects and Partnership. This page contains reports published by the Commission. The *Solutions, Initiatives Strategies (SIS)*, an action plan to reduce the rate of women incarcerated was published this year as a collaborative project.
- The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women’s website archives the annual reports, regular meeting agendas and minutes.
<http://www.ok.gov/ocsw/Resources/index.html>

“Make an annual report of activities.”

This annual report for SFY 2011 is a reflection of current actions and activities. Prior year annual reports are archived on the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women website.
http://www.ok.gov/ocsw/Annual_Reports/index.html

“Conduct meetings and seminars within the state as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission.”

The Commission conducted its duties through nine (9) regular meetings and three (3) special meetings plus committee activities. In February, the Commission partnered with the Oklahoma State University in recognizing women in leadership by presenting the Kate Barnard Award. In April, the Commission hosted the Hall of Fame. Two meetings; first

December 2010 and second June 2011 were held as retreats to establish an annual agenda and second to review the progress and accomplishments made toward this annual agenda. The following committee reports reflect the year's activities and accomplishments:

Communications Committee Report

Purpose of Committee: The Communications Committee strives to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma through education of the public.

Actions and Activities: Throughout the year, the Communications Coordinator with the assistance of staff person and approval of OCSW Chairperson was instrumental in:

- extending an OCSW Press Outline to all commissioners should an event or honor arise that needs to be distributed to the public
- forwarding regular emails to commissioners, and the advisory council members on information concerning women's health education, NACW, special OCSW events, as well as other announcements
- electronically forwarding OCSW press releases to the news media, locally and statewide
- publishing current OCSW information on the website

Future Communication Committee projects will be a continuation of the above information as well as updating the commissioner biographical information, and making the home page "current date/year" on the website. As per the OCSW rules, policies, and guidelines, the Committee will strategize and submit for OCSW approval a newsletter format. A quarterly newsletter will be sent by email to the commissioners and advisory council members. The newsletter could also be emailed to SIS members, and New Leadership members, and other women organizations.

Executive Committee Report

Purpose of Committee: The Executive Committee strives to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma through coordinating the activities of the Commission, convening ad hoc committees, and coordinating with the Office of Personnel Management to oversee efficient and effective management of the administrative office of the Commission.

Actions and Activities:

- published agendas and minutes of regular meetings
- convened the County by County Profile Ad Hoc Committee to review the published report and to promote this report in assessing the status of women across the state in future activities and actions of the Commission
- convened several meetings to handle personnel issues
- organized and implemented an orientation for new Commissioners

- organized and convened two retreats for Commissioners to assess and plan an annual work plan

Finance Committee Report

Purpose of Committee: The Finance Committee strives to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma through effective and efficient utilization of appropriated dollars of the Commission.

Actions and Activities:

- designed a budget template which accounts for the state budgeting and accounting system but is flexible to account for and monitor the various committees and projects of the Commission
- defined and developed process for budgeting, grant or project applications, and ordering and purchasing
- monitored the expenditures of the Commission against the current budget
- proposed a tentative budget for 2012

Legislative Committee

Purpose of Committee: The Legislative Committee strives to improve the quality of life of women and families in Oklahoma through monitoring state, local and national legislation related to women and families.

Actions and Activities:

- tracked and reviewed bills related to women and family issues during the legislative session
- reported on proposed legislation at regular meetings

Health (Physical and Mental) and Aging Committee

Purpose of Committee: The Physical and Mental Health Committee strives to improve the health status, quality of life and reduce disparities of women and families in Oklahoma through communicating health messages, conducting seminars and special health events.

Actions and Activities:

- monthly communicated a health message by emails or short presentations at regular meetings *e.g. heart health, osteoporosis prevention, depression and stress reduction, breast health*
- implemented a “bone health” project targeting girls 9-13 and their mothers with nutrition, physical activity and skeletal system education with six communities across the state

- promoted National Women's Health Week through a proclamation with the Governor's office

Incarceration of Women Committee

Purpose of Committee: The Incarceration of Women Committee strives to improve the quality of life and reduce disparities of women and families in Oklahoma through partnering with other coalitions, agencies and organization on activities and actions to reduce the incarceration of women.

Actions and Activities:

- published and disseminated the *Solutions, Initiatives, Strategies to Reduce the Incarceration of Oklahoma Women: A Public Agenda Action Plan* – plan disseminated to over 1000 agencies, organizations, coalitions and individuals
- planning and developing a marketing piece for convening local communities to educate the public
- partnered with other coalitions, agencies and organizations to form “Count the Costs” Coalition which is implementing the public agenda action plan

Leadership Committee:

Purpose of Committee: The Leadership Committee strives to improve the quality of life and of women and families in Oklahoma through partnering with other coalitions, agencies and organization on activities and actions promote and increase Oklahoma women's involvement in public service leadership roles.

2010 was a pivotal year for women in public service leadership roles with the election of Mary Fallin as governor, a slight gain in the legislators of 4 and the appointment of one women cabinet secretary.

Actions and Activities:

- partnered with the Women's Leadership Initiative where 100 applications were received for The Appointments Project (TAP) and thirty six top undergraduate women from across the state were part of Class X of N.E.W. (National Education for Women's) Leadership

Special Projects Committees

2011 Kate Barnard Award and Luncheon

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about the award and biographies of previous recipients can be found at:

http://www.ok.gov/ocsw/The_Kate_Barnard_Award/.

Prior to the presentation of the Kate Barnard awards, Juliana Nykolaiszyn from the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program (OOHRP) at Oklahoma State University introduced a website featuring oral history interviews, biographies, photographs, and other materials on living inductees to the Commission-sponsored Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame. The website can be accessed at <http://www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/owhof/>. All living inductees as well as members of the 2011 induction class were invited to the Capitol for the presentation and luncheon.

2011 Hall of Fame

On April 7, 2011, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women held the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Oklahoma History Center. Eight women were inducted into the Hall of Fame

Dr. Laura Boyd (Norman)

Minister Chloe L. Brown (Tulsa)

Joy D. Culbreath (Durant)

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Ardina R. Moore (Miami)

Dr. Cynthia S. Ross (Lawton)

Kathryn L. Taylor (Tulsa)

Helen Harrod Thompson (Ardmore)

These women join with the ninety-six women previously inducted.

The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to honor Oklahoma women who are pioneers in their field or in projects that benefit Oklahoma; who have made a significant contribution to the State of Oklahoma; who serve or have served as role models to other Oklahoma women; who may be "unsung heroes," but have made a difference in the lives of Oklahomans or Americans because of their actions; who have championed other women, women's issues, or served as public policy advocates for the issues important to women; and who exemplify the Oklahoma spirit.

National Association of Commissions on Women

Oklahoma belongs to this national association (2005-2011) and one Commissioner serves as a board members and executive officer. The National Association of Commissions for Women is composed of approximately 200 state/city/county member commissions and is committed to equality and justice for women by increasing the effectiveness of its member commissions and serving as their national voice.

Involvement and work load with this organization happens through participating in the annual national conference (two Commissioners appointed to Board and one of the two as an officer) and working on various committees through conference calls.

Oklahoma submitted a project for consideration for the annual NACW Outstanding Achievement Awards. Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women projects have been

recognized in 2006, 2008, and 2010. The 2010 award was received for the highly successful Solutions Initiative Summit, which addressed the high rates of female incarceration in Oklahoma and developed a blue ribbon plan for making positive change. A project has been entered for 2011 with high expectations of being, once again, in the “winners circle.”

Oklahoma is participating in their national project on “Healthy Bones.” The project focuses on education about and screening for Osteoporosis, which affects women disproportionately

2010-2011 Officers

Chair:	Mary Walker, Tulsa
Vice Chair:	Joyce Martin, Broken Arrow
Secretary:	Adeline Yerkes, Oklahoma City
Advisory Council Chair:	Fern Bowling, Stillwater
Nominating Committee Members:	Deena Fisher, Woodward; Patty Bryant, Tulsa Denise Kinzie, Cushing.

2010-2011 Membership – OCSW and Advisory Council

OCSW: The Commission consists of 30 commissioners appointed by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. A list of Commissioners is attached at the end of the report.

Advisory Council: Advisory Council members act as resources and provide expertise to the Commission. The Advisory Council serves as a vehicle to help the Commission meet its requirements to act as an outreach resource to the women of the state, to be a resource and clearinghouse for research and information on issues related to women and gender bias, to act as an advisory entity on equity issues to state agencies, communities, organizations and businesses of the state to establish recommendations for action to improve the quality of life for Oklahoma women.

Advisory Council membership has a total of fifty-seven members for 2011 with the passing of one of the 2009 inductees, Edna Miller Hennessee. The new council members include the eight 2011 Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame inductees who are: Dr. Laura Boyd, Minister Chloe L. Brown, Joy D. Culbreath, Marcia J. Mitchell, Ardina R. Moore, Dr. Cynthia S. Ross, Kathryn L. Taylor, and Helen Harrod Thompson. Other new members include Kelsey Kemp and Rosalyn Jacquette.

Members of the Advisory Council participated in regular meetings, an Orientation early in the program year and served on committees for the Kate Barnard Planning Committee and the Hall of Fame and other standing committees. A list of active Advisory Council members follows at the end of the report.

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women Commissioners

Rita Aragon, Cabinet Secretary, Veteran Affairs, Edmond
Patty Bryant, Legislative Committee Chair, Tulsa
Fern Bowling, Advisory Council Chair, Stillwater
Representative Lee Denney, Cushing
Malaka Elyazgi, Aging, Physical and Mental Health Committee Co-Chair, Norman
Deena Fisher, Nominating Committee, Woodward
Risha Grant, Tulsa
Catherine Haynes, Ponca City
Joyce Horton Sanders, Chickasaw
Ashley Kehl, Communications Committee Chair, Oklahoma City
Rebecca Kennedy, Finance Committee Chair, Seminole
Denise Kinzie, Leadership Committee Chair, Cushing
Lou Kohlman, By-Laws and Procedures Committee Chair, Oklahoma City
Valaska Littlefield, Tulsa
Joyce Martin, Vice Chairperson, Broken Arrow
Carolyn McLarty, Mutual
Bernice Mitchell, Representative to the Nat'l Assn. of Commissions on Women, Stillwater
Chris Morriss, Oklahoma City
Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Kate Barnard Event Chair, Stillwater
Representative Pam Peterson, Tulsa
Patricia Presley, Oklahoma City
Nancy Rothman, Tulsa
Devon Shannon, Lawton
Holly Shelton, Aging, Physical and Mental Health Committee Co-Chair, Oklahoma City
Nancy Smith, Chickasaw
Peggy Thompson, Incarceration of Women Committee Chair, Edmond
Valerie Thompson, Oklahoma City
Mary Walker, Chairperson, Tulsa
Adeline Yerkes, Secretary, Edmond

Oklahoma Commission on Status of Women Advisory Council

Kitti Asberry, Oklahoma City	Glenna Carlile, Oklahoma City
Carol Axley, Tulsa	Joy Culbreath, Durant
Isabel Baker, Tahlequah	Bob Darcy, Stillwater
Laura Boyd, Norman	Linda Dobson, Oklahoma City
Linda Edmondson, Oklahoma City	Carol Fincher, Stillwater
Debbie Boyer, Oklahoma City	Gloria Fletcher, Enid
Chloe Brown, Tulsa	Sally Frasier, Tulsa
Marilyn Capps, Oklahoma City	

Vicky French, Foss
Grayson, Glenpool
CityHarmon, Blackwell
Lyn Hester, Oklahoma City
Robin Hudson, Tulsa
Jolinda Hutchison, Spencer
Kathy Huston, Stillwater
Katheryn Jones, Bentonville
Shelia Kennison, Perkins
Lou Kerr, Oklahoma City
Donna Lawrence, Oklahoma City
Debbe Leftwich, Oklahoma City
Sheryl Lovelady, Oklahoma City
Susan Marcus-Mendoza, Norman
Kay Martin, Oklahoma City
Pat Martin, Purcell
Marcia Mitchell
Ardina Moore, Miami
Jilda Motley, Tulsa

Penny Painter, TulsaKimberly
Linda Parker,Oklahoma
Janet Peery, Oklahoma City
Laura Pitman, Oklahoma City
Claudean Reynolds, Stillwater
Letita Jackson, Tulsa
Pam Richardson, Tulsa
Marjan Seirfai-Pour
Jeanetta Shipp, Stillwater
Heather Simon, Tulsa
Marlene Smith, Muskogee
Gail Stricklin, Oklahoma City
Leslie Thomas, Oklahoma City
Helen Thompson, Ardmore
Carolyn Whitener, Edmond
Correna Wilson, Shawnee
Latasha Wilson, Stillwater
Esther Winterfeldt, Stillwater
Sue Woodward, Tulsa