



# Maryland Commission for Women



2011

M A R Y L A N D



COMMISSION FOR WOMEN



## Message from the Governor and Lt. Governor

The Maryland Commission for Women has enjoyed a long and noteworthy history of advocating on behalf of Maryland's women and addressing pressing social issues that impact our state. For the past 27 years, in partnership with the Women Legislators of Maryland, the Maryland Commission for Women have recognized exceptional Maryland women whose hard work, dedication, and achievement have made a mark on their community and the state. Each year, the Maryland Commission for Women hosts an event honoring women who have made unique and lasting contributions to Maryland's economic, political, cultural, and social life by inducting them into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. These women through their work help to build up the dreams of our children by demonstrating that nothing is ever impossible if you work hard for a better future.

We thank all of the members of the commission for their commitment to ensuring that the legacies left by Maryland's women – both young and old – are not forgotten.

*Martin O'Malley, Governor*

*Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor*



## Message from the Secretary

The Department of Human Resources (DHR) commends the Maryland Commission for Women for its commitment to identifying issues that impact Maryland women, increasing awareness and understanding of these issues and striving to find solutions that will enhance the quality of life for all Maryland women and their families.

Every day women across the state are doing amazing work that makes a real difference in their communities and the Maryland Commission for Women champions these efforts. They work to improve women's access to essential health care, expand educational and career opportunities for our young girls and provide a voice for women in the policy and legislative decisions that affect their lives.

To date, 142 Maryland women have been recognized for their unique contributions and inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. They are physicians, educators, inventors, scientists, publishers, and politicians. All of them have left a lasting legacy and serve as continuous reminders of our human potential.

Since 1997, in the Maryland Commission for Women's Women of Tomorrow Program, 86 young women from Middle and High Schools across the State have been recognized for their commitment to community service and academic excellence, encouraging them to become our future leaders.

DHR will continue to support and promote the Commission as it works to advance solutions that will benefit Maryland women and make Maryland a stronger state for all of its residents.

*Theodore Dallas, Secretary*

*Department of Human Resources*



## *Message from the Chair*

I am pleased to report that The Maryland Commission for Women has enjoyed a successful year as we continued to expand and to fulfill the goals set forth in our mission.

The Commission in 2011 was composed of nineteen members of diverse backgrounds. For example, one member is the founder of her own biomedical company and another operates an organization for military veterans. Our members come from a variety of careers and interests. They serve their local communities in many non-profit and volunteer organizations. We are geographically diverse as well, hailing from all parts of the great State of Maryland.

As you will read in this report, in 2011 we held our annual signature events - The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and The Women of Tomorrow. At the same time, our committees were active on a host of activities that are detailed in the reports which follow. A significant advance this year was the adoption of the Strategic Plan. Following its adoption, the Commission members and committees have begun to implement specific tasks and strategies to accomplish the goals handed down to us in our founding statute.

We continued our close relationship with the Women's Legislative Caucus and the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, involving both organizations in our signature events. Throughout the year, our members participated in meetings of the local Women's Commissions all over the State and we invited representatives from those groups to our statewide meetings.

It has been another busy year for the Commission for Women and it has been my pleasure to serve as Chair of this impressive group of motivated Maryland women.

*Susan Carol Elgin, Chair  
Maryland Commission for Women  
March 29, 2012*



Maryland Commission for Women  
2011 Membership

NAME	COUNTY	TERM
Tanesha Boldin	Baltimore	1st
Kimberly Brown, PhD,	Anne Arundel	2nd
Darlene Breck	Charles	1st
Patricia E. Cornish	Montgomery	2nd
Susan Elgin, Esq	Baltimore City	2nd
Lynn R. Fitrell	St. Mary's	2nd
Susan Genn	Montgomery	2nd
Honorable Helen Holton,	Baltimore City	2nd
Kristy Herring	Baltimore	1st
Erum Malik	Howard	2nd
Ginger Miller	Pr. Georges	1st
Anita Riley	Carroll	1st
Deborah Risper	Baltimore	2nd
Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen	Baltimore	1st
Cara Tenenbaum	Montgomery	1st
Roseanna Vogt	Calvert	2nd
Dr. Kathleen White	Baltimore	2nd
A. Diane Williams	Prince George's	2nd

**2011 Commission Staff**

Crystal Young, *Program Administrator*

Ellie Elgin, *Director of Outreach*



# *History of the Commission*

The Commission originated in 1965 as the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. As issues of equality and social change continued to impact women, the Commission was reactivated in 1968 as the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women. Governor Spiro Agnew directed the Commission to review the previous Commission's recommendations on education, employment, and community and civic participation, and implement those most pertinent.

The Commission also cooperated with state and local organizations to identify problems and improve opportunities for women to serve in a variety of fields. In 1971, legislation was introduced by Rosalie S. Abrams during the General Assembly Session through SB 190 "calling for the creation of an independent state commission on the status of women." As a result of these efforts, the law creating the "Maryland Commission on the Status of Women" went into effect on July 1, 1971 and the commission became part of the Department of Human Resources. The Commission adopted its present name in 1976 (Chapter 119, Acts of 1976 Maryland Manual, 1989-1990, pp. 315-315).

The Commission consists of 25 bi-partisan members (women and men); nine are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the Senate President and House Speaker each appoint eight members. The Chair and Vice Chair of the commission are elected by its membership. (Chapter 9, Acts of 2006; Code 1957, Art. 49C, secs 1-8).

## **Mission**

The Maryland Commission for Women works with Maryland State Government to advance solutions and serves as a statewide resource to expand social, political and economic opportunities for all women.

## **Goals**

- To work with government to help serve as a voice for Maryland women, in the development of executive, legislative and judicial policies
- To promote solutions that address the needs of Maryland women
- To serve as a statewide resource center for Maryland women

## **Activities**

- Houses the Maryland Women's Heritage Center
- Studies and reports on the status of Maryland women and girls
- Encourages women to become politically active
- Maintains a clearinghouse of information on services and programs for women
- Oversees the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Ceremonies
- Houses a Legislative and Public Policy Committee to track legislation for women in Maryland
- Provides and maintains a referral and resource service for women in need of assistance
- Provides outreach to the community in the form of educational events on issues of importance to Maryland women and girls



## Heritage Center Committee Report

*Ellie Tryon Elgin, Outreach Director and Heritage Center Liaison*

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center is home to the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, which currently houses exhibits on 63 of the 142 women who have been inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. The exhibits are representative sample of the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-geographical, and multi-career paths of the women inducted into the Hall of Fame.

In 2011 the STEM – (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) exhibit went up with help from Claire Parkinson and Mary Cleave from Goddard Space Center - NASA. As with all exhibits it was a one year project to gather artifacts and information about Maryland women who have made contributions in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Through the generosity of Goddard Space Center the Maryland Women's Heritage Center has an exhibit on the "Women of Goddard". The exhibit includes a touch screen which shares information about each woman represented.

Each year the Maryland Women's Heritage Center has been able to showcase the artistic talents of Maryland Women through an exhibit displayed during Women's History Month. The exhibit was on display at the World Trade Center Lobby at the Inner Harbor, Baltimore. This year "Women's Vision: Women's Art" was done in partnership with the AARP. Every woman in the exhibit was over the age of 50 with the oldest a young 92 year old artist.

The continuous support of the Maryland Commission for Women and the Department of Education is important for the Center's continuous growth and development. The Maryland Women's Heritage Center is located at 39 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201. The hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Docent opportunities are available at the Heritage Center. For more information call 443-708-2442.

## Public Relations Report

*Tanesha Bouldin, Chair*

The Maryland Commission for Women continues to work with the Communications Department at the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to put out PSAs on up-coming events and programs. The PR Committee continues to work on maintaining a calendar of these activities. This includes many events from a variety of support organizations, resource partners and Local Women's Commission on the Maryland Commission for Women. This year the Public Relations Committee was able to obtain a Facebook presence to expand our reach into the public through social media.



## Legislative & Public Policy Committee

### Pat Cornish

*Chair, Legislative and Public Policy Committee*



In the 2011 General Assembly, the Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) monitored Federal and State legislative priorities of concern to women and their families and played a major role as a member of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW). MLAW is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. Our collective voice is represented in the annual Legislative Agenda that promoted legislation to advance the well-being of Maryland women and their families. Below is the final report.

#### **Criminal Law – Sexual Crimes – Definitions - Bill Number: SB 204**

Synopsis: Revises the definition of a sexual act to include penetration with fists, fingers, toes, etc., putting them in the same category as penetration with an object.

Committee(s): Senate Judicial Proceedings and House Judiciary

Lead Sponsor(s): Senator Jennie Forehand and Delegate Kris Valderrama

Lead Group(s): Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Lisae Jordan, Legislative Counsel, 443-995-5544

OUTCOME: PASSED.

#### **Criminal Law – Human Trafficking Victim Protection Act - Bill Number: SB 327 and HB 266**

Synopsis: Creates a system for sex trafficking victims to have convictions for prostitution, which occurred while they were a victim of sex trafficking, removed from their criminal record.

Committee(s): Senate Judicial Proceedings and House Judiciary

Lead Sponsor(s): Senator Jennie Forehand and Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher

Lead Group(s): Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, Polaris Project, Julie Janovsky, 301-928-3882, Senior Policy Specialist and Communications Advisor, Polaris Project; Chair, Legislative Committee, Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force

OUTCOME: PASSED.

#### **Criminal Law – Human Trafficking – Asset Forfeiture, Labor Trafficking, AntiHuman Trafficking Fund - Bill Number: SB 247 and HB 418**

Synopsis: Would have allowed the court to order the forfeiture of all ill-gotten gains of convicted traffickers; would have created the Anti-Human Trafficking Fund for the forfeited assets, to provide grants to law enforcement and victim service providers.

Committee(s): Senate Judicial Proceedings and House Judiciary

Lead Sponsor(s): Senator Jamie Raskin and Delegate Kathleen Dumais

Lead Group(s): Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, Polaris Project, Julie Janovsky, 301-928-3882, Senior Policy Specialist and Communications Advisor, Polaris Project; Chair, Legislative Committee, Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force

OUTCOME: FAILED: Passed Senate: No vote in House Judiciary Committee.

#### **Education–Human Trafficking–Awareness, Training and Distribution of Materials - Bill Number: HB 674**

Synopsis: Directs the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Education to provide training materials to educators in the public school system. The goal is to raise awareness and provide educators with the tools to identify any students who may be victims of human trafficking.

Committee(s): Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs and House Ways and Means



Lead Sponsor(s): Delegate Eric Luedtke and Delegate Bonnie Cullison

Lead Group(s): Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, Polaris Project, Julie Janovsky, 301-928-3882, Senior Policy Specialist and Communications Advisor, Polaris Project; Chair, Legislative Committee, Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force

OUTCOME: PASSED.

### **Family Law – Permanency Planning and Guardianship Review Hearings - Bill Number: SB 335**

Synopsis: Establishes methods by which the juvenile court, in specified permanency planning and guardianship review hearings, may satisfy the requirement that the court consult on the record with the child.

Committee(s): Judicial Proceedings

Lead Sponsors: Senator Delores G. Kelley and Senator Jennie M. Forehand

Lead Group(s): Tenth District Democratic Club, Charles Sydnor, Esq., 410-747-5556

OUTCOME: FAILED. No vote in Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

### **Crimes — Definition of Serious Physical Injury — Strangulation and Suffocation - Bill Number: SB 593 and HB 819**

Synopsis: Facilitates the prosecution of strangulation as a crime by revising the definition of serious physical injury to include strangulation and suffocation in the first degree assault statute.

Committee(s): Senate Judicial Proceedings and House Judiciary

Lead Sponsor(s): Senator Jamie Raskin, Senator Nancy Jacobs and Delegate Kathleen Dumais

Lead Group(s): Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, Cynthia Lifson, Legislative Counsel, 410-531-1619, Michaele Cohen, Executive Director, 301-352-4574

OUTCOME: FAILED. Passed Senate: No vote in House Judiciary Committee.

### **Equity for Girls in Maryland's Juvenile Justice System - Bill Number: HB 511 and SB 787**

Synopsis: Original bill required the Department of Juvenile Services to provide girls with a range and quality of services substantially equivalent to those provided for boys. Amended to only require a report to the General Assembly on the manner in which DJS will use existing resources to ensure that females receive services that are substantially equivalent to those offered males.

Committee(s): House Judiciary and Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs

Lead Sponsor(s): Delegate Kathleen Dumais and Senator Jamie Raskin

Lead Group(s): ACLU of Maryland, Melissa Goemann, 410-693-4877

OUTCOME: PASSED.

### **Job Applicant Fairness Act - Bill Number: SB 132 and HB 87**

Synopsis: Prohibits employers from using an applicant's or employee's credit report or credit history in determining whether to deny employment to the applicant, discharge the employee, or determine compensation or the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. Amendments included exceptions when there is a bona fide purpose that is substantially job-related and established a complaint, investigation, and hearing process and penalties.

Committee(s): Senate Finance and House Economic Matters

Lead Sponsor(s): Senator Catherine Pugh and Delegate Kirill Reznik

Lead Group(s): Job Opportunities Task Force, Melissa Broome, Senior Policy Advocate, 410-234-8046

OUTCOME: PASSED.

**The Lorraine Sheehan Health and Community Services Act of 2011 - Bill Number: SB 168 and HB 121**

Synopsis: Original bill increased the state alcohol tax by a dime a drink and raised \$215.6 million in new revenues, which would be used to fund health care and community service needs. Amended version became SB 994 to increase the alcohol sales tax instead. First year funds earmarked for education and developmental disabilities.

Committee(s): Senate Budget and Taxation and Finance, and House Ways and Means and Health and Government Operations

Lead Sponsor(s): Senator Verna Jones-Rodwell and Delegate Jim Hubbard

Lead Group(s): Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, Vincent DeMarco, President, 410-235-9000 & Brooke Hisle, Coalition Director, 410-235-9000

**OUTCOME:** SB 994 - Sales and Use Tax - Alcoholic Beverages - Supplementary Appropriation alcohol tax PASSED in a different form.

**Request to Place a Statue of Harriet Tubman in the National Statuary Hall Collection - Bill Number: SB 351 and HB 455**

Synopsis: Provides for the replacement of the John Hanson statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection with a statue of Harriet Tubman. Committee(s): Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs, and House Health and Government Operations

Lead Sponsor(s): Delegate Susan Lee

Lead Group(s): Maryland NOW, Linda Mahoney, President, 301-648-5484; EVE (Equal Visibility Everywhere), Dr. Lynette Long

**OUTCOME:** FAILED. Passed Senate with substantial amendments; No vote in House Health and Government Operations Committee.

Girls Committee  
*The Women of Tomorrow Program*

*Kimberly Brown, Chair*



The Women of Tomorrow Awards was established in 1997 to honor and acknowledge extraordinary young women that have demonstrated a commitment to community service and academic excellence. Maryland will continue to flourish because of our future women leaders and their unceasing commitment to the community. The Women of Tomorrow Awards gives us the opportunity to honor these remarkable young women. These young women are selected for honor through a process that begins with an annual statewide call for nominations. An independent, all-volunteer selection committee reviews the applications and selects six young women; two per grade grouping. The 2011 honorees include:

**GRADES 7-8 HONOREES**

*First Place*

Michelle Horne

Chesapeake Public Charter School, St. Mary's County

*Honorable Mention*

Alexandra Comegys

St. Ursula School, Baltimore County

**GRADE 11 HONOREES**

*First Place-11th Grade*

Ilana Price

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Montgomery County

*Honorable Mention-11th Grade*

Megan Toms

Frederick County Career & Technology Center, Frederick County

**GRADES 9-10 HONOREES**

*First Place*

Josephine Grant

Francis Scott Key High School, Carroll County

*Honorable Mention*

Tyra Hooper

Bryn Mawr School, Baltimore City

**GRADE 12 HONOREES**

*First Place-12th Grade*

Carson Wigley

Worcester Preparatory School, Wicomico County

*Honorable Mention-12th Grade*

Meredith Good-Cohn

Garrison Forest School, Baltimore County

## *Education and Outreach Committee*

The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) continues to serve as a catalyst for the promotion of educational endeavors for Maryland's women. These endeavors are accomplished by extensive community involvement with various state and local government initiatives. The Commission has been engaged with educational opportunities to support several events sponsored by local county Commissioners and Women's organizations.

The Maryland Commission for Women supported the Women Moving Forward conference in 2011 and will continue to support it especially since MCW is one of the founding organizations. We had a booth at the 2011 conference and provided flowers to brighten the atmosphere as well as materials to encourage the ladies to succeed upon re-entry into society. The Behind Bars Conference held at the Jessup women's prison has wardens hoping to duplicate the effort in other prisons because of the successful outcomes the conference has produced.

Recognizing the need for young girls to be actively engaged with educational endeavors, several commissioners and the Chair of the Education Committee attended the Girls in STEM Expo at JHU applied physics laboratory.

March is Women's History Month, and Commissioners attended the World Trade Institute and met with the Haitian Women's Delegation, and also made a presentation at the Department of the Environment, and at the Crownsville Daughters of the American Revolution events during the month.

To continue community collaboration and outreach, several commissioners met with the World Trade Center Institute Indian Women's Delegation, attended the Computer Mania Day at the University of Maryland, and the Women Services & Resource Roundtable in Harford County. The Commissioners and the Chair of the Commissioners attended the Baltimore County Women's Management Conference, given by the Baltimore County Commission for Women in which over 200 women received vital information about financial matters.

The committee has started the planning phase of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) education project with the Maryland Heritage Center to help design additional educational activities to support the educational needs of Maryland's women.

*Dr. Kathleen White, Chair*



## *Health & Wellness Report*

2011 was a successful year for the Health & Wellness Committee. The committee participated in many activities to increase the resources and improve the well-being of women, girls and families throughout the State of Maryland.

Through the Health & Wellness Committee, the MCW supported Governor Martin O'Malley's and Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown's project to promote a Healthier Maryland. The Committee Chair served on the University of Baltimore Summit on Childhood Obesity Planning Board with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. A summit was held November 15-16, 2011 for stakeholders about policy approaches to childhood obesity prevention. Information was disseminated on cultural influences, potential interventions and produced an inventory of resources and programs in Maryland. The Maryland Commission for Women and staff volunteered in various capacities during the summit along with the Prince George's County Commission for Women at this successful Summit on Childhood Obesity.

During the summit the newly unveiled Institute for Healthiest Maryland was announced. The Institute will serve as a collaborator of support systems that will guide efforts to combat chronic disease throughout the state of Maryland.

The Health and Wellness committee attended events relating to domestic violence and human trafficking. The Committee contributed to the Red Flag Conference planning hosted by the Prince George's County Commission for Women and First Baptist Church of Glenandens's Ministry Center. The Conference theme "Red Flags... IF Only I Had Known" was held May 28, 2011. The Co-Chair served as a Moderator and the Commissioners played a major role in the success of the conference by volunteering. The conference was well attended.

On October 13, 2011 the Family Crisis Center, Inc. celebrated 30 years of helping women and children from violent relationships at their 30th Anniversary Gala and Awards Ceremony Johns Hopkins Medicine Executive Women's Breakfast "A Women's Journey" on May 18, 2011 was a briefing on advances in women's health. This event's aim was to empower women to make useful health care decisions for themselves and those they love. Other health events that were attended include the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Annual Women's Reproductive Health Forum in Howard County, and the Baltimore County Department of Aging workshop on January 11, 2011.

The Maryland Commission for Women continues its membership in the Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform, which works to achieve universal health care for all Marylanders by: educating the members, supporters, elected officials and the public; reaching out to all potential allies of reform; engaging members on the policy issues of reform and potential solution, and advocacy and action as health care reformers.

President Barack Obama's proclamation, proclaiming October 3, 2011 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month was presented to the Maryland Commission for Women with the President's call on all Americans to speak out against domestic violence and support local efforts to assist victims of these crimes in finding the help and healing they need.

*Diane Williams, Chair*





Maryland Women's Hall of Fame  
*2011 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Honorees*



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Ligia Peralta, Gertrude L. Poe, Angela Gibson, President, Alpha-Epsilon Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Barbara Holdridge, Carol W. Greider, June A. Willenz

## 2011 Hall of Fame Inductees

### **Lucy Diggs Slowe** (posthumously)

Nominated by Angela Gibson, President,  
Alpha-Epsilon Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

### **Carol W. Greider, Ph.D.**

Nominated by Edward D. Miller, M.D., Dean, School of Medicine Johns Hopkins Medicine;  
Chief Executive Office Johns Hopkins Medicine

### **Barbara Holdridge**

Nominated by Christine Moulton, Executive Director,  
National Women's Hall of Fame

### **Dr. Ligia Peralta, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.S.A.H.M.**

Nominated by E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., Dean,  
University of Maryland School of Medicine; Vice President for Medical Affairs

### **Gertrude L. Poe**

Nominated by Jennifer Hafner, Director,  
Maryland Newspaper Project Maryland State Archives

### **June A. Willenz**

Nominated by Denise Scotto, Esq. Global Legal Strategies

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1985 through the efforts of the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland. The purpose of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame is to honor Maryland women who have made unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural and social life of the state and to provide role models of achievement for our future women leaders. The annual ceremony acts to enhance the visibility of women's contributions to the communities they serve, the state of Maryland and to the wider world.

Each year the Maryland Commission for Women and Women Legislators recognize women of achievement through the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. The selected honorees' contributions have made significant and lasting impressions in all areas of achievement, including areas such as the environment, science and technology, education, the arts, social justice, civil rights, the armed services, and religion. Through the creation of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, the Hall of Fame exhibit has a home. The exhibit provides a face and access for all Marylanders to get to know the Maryland Women who have contributed so much to society and the world.

Visit the Maryland Commission for Women's website – [www.marylandwomen.org](http://www.marylandwomen.org) to access the Maryland Archives to learn more about the women who have been inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. Also visit the Maryland Women's Heritage Center – 39 W. Lexington St. Baltimore, MD – to see the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame exhibit. The exhibit features 63 of the 142 women who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The Heritage Center is a 501 c 3 was founded by the Maryland Commission for Women and the Maryland State Department of Education and is supported by the Maryland Women's Legislative Caucus.

*OWPOME*

# Maryland Commission for Women

## Strategic Plan: 2011

The Maryland Commission for Women's Strategic planning meeting identified the following goals, objectives and strategies ranging from short term and long-term strategies for the next five years.

### **Goal: To advise government, as a voice for Maryland women in the development of executive, legislative and judicial policies**

*Objective: Develop working relationship with the Executive branch*

*Strategy: Initiate and continue contact with Governor's Office*

Contact made was made with the Office of the Governor to develop a working relationship. Periodic meetings will be scheduled throughout the year. The long term strategy is to request each new administration to designate contact person for the Maryland Commission for Women. Task: Executive Committee

*Strategy: Contact with Governor's Appointment Office*

With a closer relationship with Appointment secretary or specific person in Secretary of State's Office the Commission will have more input for appointments to MCW and develop process with the office of the Secretary of State and have the ability to recommend individuals for appointment based on Commission needs. Task: Executive Committee, Program Administrator

*Strategy: Secure MCW position/place at DHR*

The Maryland Commission for Women has been part of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) since 1971. Therefore the MCW continues to work collaboratively with key departments within DHR so that we can serve Maryland women more effectively.

*Objective: Involvement with Legislative Branch*

*Strategy: Continue and enhance involvement with MLAW*

The Commission has renewed its support of MLAW and assures Commission members attend MLAW events as well as making recommendation of Commission members to serve on MLAW Board. Task: PR and Legislative Committee

*Strategy: Testify and support bills (or oppose) in Maryland General Assembly*

Commission members will testify when needed and coordinate with MLAW coalition supporting legislative efforts

*Strategy: Work with Women Legislators of Maryland*

The Commission continues to strengthen its working relationships on Hall of Fame with the Women Legislators and work to identify other areas of cooperation.



*Strategy: Identify area of law which affects women and introduce legislation*

MCW continues to support and have representation on MLAW to identify specific areas of concern for MCW with MLAW. During the summer Commissioners will meet to brainstorm on and about legislative initiatives.

*Objective: Involvement with Judicial Branch*

*Strategy: Monitor gender bias in judicial branch*

MCW recognizes the need to follow up on Gender Bias studies and present their findings to the Judicial Branch. **Task:** PR and Legislative Committee

### **Goal: Promote solutions which address the needs of women in Maryland**

*Objective: Continue and enhance the existing Commission Programs*

*Strategy: Hall of Fame*

Strengthen cooperation with women legislators to expand the pool of nominations and Refine rules and regulations re: selection of honorees to assure geographic diversity.

*Strategy: Women of Tomorrow*

Enlist cooperation of women legislators in requesting nominations to expand pool of nominations to assure geographic diversity. **Task:** Hall of Fame & WOT Committees

*Objective: Choose one area each year for focus: 2012 – economic empowerment/employment*

*Strategy: Have semi-annually presentations/symposiums on this subject*

*Strategy: Work with the Women Heritage Center on programs*

This is a long term strategy to look at and research issues that currently impact Maryland women to develop educational and information forums and symposia. **Task:** PR, Health & Wellness & Education Committees

A listing of the local Women's Commissions is on-line at [www.marylandwomen.org](http://www.marylandwomen.org)

Resources – on line at [www.marylandwomen.org](http://www.marylandwomen.org)

## *Notes*





**The Maryland Commission  
for Women**

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