

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2025

5:00 p.m.

Virtual

Commissioners Attending:

LaShaune Stitt, Chair
Patricia Lambert, First Vice Chair
Christine Lee, Second Vice Chair
Tazeen Ahmad
Pier Blake
Sharon Blugis
Judy Carbone
Jonathon Carrington
Judith Emmel
Tekisha Everette
Maggi Gaines
Jodi Kelber
Sarah Ackerstein Klein
Lauren Lambert
Stacey Rebbert
Evelyne Steward
Monica Watkins

Commissioners Absent:

Gloria Dent
Linda Han
Brenda McChriston
Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz
Nykidra Robinson
Lenita Walker

Staff Attending:

Ariana Kelly, Executive Director
Danelle Buchman, Program Manager
Genesis Franco, Management Associate

Guest:

Beth Morrow,
Maryland Family Network Policy Director
Delegate Sarah Wolek,
Women Legislators of Maryland Secretary

- I. **Call to Order.....Commissioner LaShaune Stitt, Chair**
The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Chair Stitt welcomed all Commissioners.
- II. **Opening Business**
The attendance for January Minutes and roster was reviewed.
Approval of Agenda and November Minutes
- III. **Approval of Agenda & November Minutes**

Commissioner LaShaune Stitt called for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Maggi Gaines moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Tazeen Ahmad seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Presentation from Maryland Family Network

- A. Beth Morrow, Policy Director gave a speech on advocacy for childcare.
- B. Q&A from commissioners.

V. Presentation from Women Legislators of Maryland

- A. Sarah Wolek, Secretary Delegate presented key upcoming dates and discussed the legislative priorities related to childcare.
- B. Q&A from commissioners.

VI. Outreach & Awards Committee Report

- A. Update provided on March event at Government House
- B. Young Women Awards application is live
- C. Meetings were held with Local Commissions - Garret County and Anne Arundel County

VII. Research, Policy & Legislation Subcommittee Report

- A. Policy Priorities Update:

Vote: Subcommittee Recommendation is to Support:

- Women's Health Bucket - *Domestic Violence Relinquishment and Notification*
Commissioner Sarah Klein moved to support the bill. Commissioner Tazeen Ahmad seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Women in Workforce Bucket - *Dental Hygienists and Dentist Loan Repayment Program*
Commissioner Judy Carbone moved to support the legislation. Commissioner Stacey Rebbert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Women in Workforce Bucket - *Terminology and Obsolete References - Maryland Firefighters Association and Related Terms*
Commissioner Stacey Rebbert moved to support the legislation. Commissioner Tazeen Ahmad seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Feb 10th Evening in Annapolis

- C. Call for RSVPs to February Event

- D. The MCW Will Have Rolling Support for Additional Legislation Until Feb 9

- E. 2025 SWIM Update- Women in Elected Office

- F. Women's Issues Policy Coalitions Updates (MLAW, MNADV, MCASA)

VIII. Staff Report

- A. Communications Report – Request for help generating newsletter sign-ups

B. Policy Report - A bill tracker was created by staff to keep up to date

IX. Ongoing Planning Process Discussion

- A. Subcommittee Mini-Plans were approved by Executive Committee in December
- B. Foundation met in Dec and approved request from Outreach/Awards Committee
- C. Big picture thinking ongoing within subcommittees
- D. All proposals will be considered by full commission at June 26 the Planning Meeting

X. Adjournment.....Chair Stitt

Chair Stitt thanked everyone for attending the meeting today. There being no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m

Respectfully submitted:

Ariana Kelly, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women
1/17/2025