

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 16, 2014

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD

In attendance

Commissioners:

Dr. Kathleen White, Chair
Lee Bachu, Vice Chair
Wandra Ashley-Williams,
Secretary
Dr. Homayara Aziz
Sylvia Butler
Pat Cornish
Nicole Drew
Lorna Forde
Helen Holton (Conf. Call)
Michele Hughes

Velvet Johnson
Varsha Mathur
Ginger Miller
Betsy Ramirez
Debbie Risper
Roseanna Vogt
Diane Williams

Staff:

Judith Vaughan-Prather,
Executive Director
Crystal Young, Program
Manager

Absent:

Lillian Cruz
Susan Elgin
Anita Riley
Toni Sandridge
Cara Tenenbaum

Guest:

Maka Gioshvili, American Councils for International Education

I. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes.....Dr. Kathleen White

Dr. White called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. She called for a moment of silence in honor of former MCW Chair Carolyn Mattingly whose life was so senselessly taken last month. Dr. White, Judith Vaughan-Prather, Roseanna Vogt, Jill Moss Greenberg and Linda Shevitz all attended the memorial ceremony. Dr. White sent flowers on behalf of the MCW.

Dr. White called for approval of the minutes of the September 12 planning meeting. Pat Cornish moved approval of the minutes. Helen Holton and Michele Hughes seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. Presentation.....Maka Gioshvili, Professional Fellow

Maka Gioshvili, American Councils for International Education Professional Fellow, was introduced to the Commission by Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director. Maka is working in the MCW office full time for the month of October. She is an attorney from the Eastern European nation of Georgia. Maka explained her organization and programs. One of her responsibilities in her job in Georgia is promoting gender equality in employment.

III. Chair’s Report Dr. Kathleen White

A. Strategic Plan

At its annual planning meeting on September 12, the commission developed its agenda for the 2014 – 2015 year, including the formation of its committees and the development of its priority areas of concern:

- Economic Equity for Women
- Violence Against Women
- Health and Wellness for Women

Debbie Risper moved to accept the three (3) priority areas of concern developed at the Annual Planning Meeting. Wandra Ashley-Williams seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Dr. White reported that the DHR Communications office has issued a press release about the planning meeting’s outcomes which is posted on the MCW website.

B. November 7th Local Commission Roundtable Meeting

Commissions for Women across the state of Maryland have been invited to a meeting at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. The purpose of the meeting is to share information on plans and strategies. A panel discussion will be offered featuring some of Maryland’s most prominent advocates for women’s issues. The Friends of the MCW has very generously agreed to sponsor the meeting. Dr. White thanked the Friends for its support over the years and especially for its support of this event.

C. Friends of the MCW.....Helen Holton

Helen Holton stated the goal of the Friends is to support the activities of the MCW. The Friends hope to establish an endowment that will provide a revenue stream so that expended funds are renewed. There has been no fundraising for this 501(c)3 organization in recent years. She said that the Friends needs to be reinvigorated and that recruitment of new members is needed. Currently the only members are the four officers: Susan Elgin, Helen Holton, Debbie Risper and Dr. White. Dr. White again thanked Commissioners Holton, Risper and Elgin for all their work as officers of the Friends and for the Friends’ support of the MCW.

IV. Committee Work Sessions

Committee members met in break-out sessions to develop their plans for FY15.

V. Committees Report Out

A. Education and Outreach Ginger Miller

This committee has two subcommittees – the Hall of Fame planning committee and the Women of Tomorrow Awards planning committee. The committee discussed the possibility of holding a young women’s leadership conference before the Women of Tomorrow event. The committee also discussed preparation of a calendar of events that relate to MCW’s three priority areas of concern.

1. 2015 Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame..... Varsha Mathur

The planning committee for the 2015 Hall of Fame is almost ready to publish the call for nominations, and proposed a couple of changes designed to simplify the process: (1) All nominations would be submitted electronically, and (2) The Selection committee would be reduced from seven to five members. Following discussion, it was decided not to make these changes for this year.

2. Women of Tomorrow Program..... Debbie Risper and Lorna Forde

The planning committee for the 2015 Women of Tomorrow Awards Program has set a tentative date of June 11, 2015 for the program which will recognize six teens for their academic and community leadership. The committee submitted a proposal that requests \$5000 for the budget for the program to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis. The committee discussed the possibility of conducting a seminar for the teens that are being honored, before the awards ceremony. The program could focus on the MCW’s three priority areas of concern.

Michele Hughes proposed that the MCW use the term “intimate partner violence” instead of “domestic violence” in both its Strategic Plan and in all its programming, including the Women of Tomorrow program. The motion was seconded by Wandra Ashley-Williams and after much discussion, passed with one vote of opposition.

B. Legislative and Public Policy.....Velvet Johnson

The committee proposed that the MCW to take a more active role in Annapolis during the Maryland General Assembly. In addition, its members will review the 2006 report of the Maryland Equal Pay Commission to determine what actions have been taken on its recommendations. The committee also discussed the possibility of meeting quarterly with the Maryland Women Legislators’ Caucus, and of possibly organizing an Advocacy Day in partnership with MLAW. It plans to work as a team to track legislation and propose MCW positions on bills.

C. Public Relations and Communications.....Dr. White for Lillian Cruz

Lillian Cruz was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, but she has been working on updating the MCW website and has made great progress. This committee will be asked to develop a process for issuing press releases. In addition, the committee will look for strategies to make better use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter, and will consider the possibility of posting a calendar of events for women on the MCW website.

D. Health and Wellness.....Dr. Hamayara Aziz

The committee proposed to designate a special health theme for each month of the year and to post resources for that theme on the MCW website. By the 15th of each month, the committee will send the staff events to post on the website for the following month. The committee selected the following themes for 2014 – 2015:

October	Breast Cancer
November	Diabetes
December	Rape and Violence
January	Weight
February	Heart Disease
March	Teen Pregnancy
April	STDs
May	Mental Health
June	Aids
July	Parenting
August	Cervical Cancer

E. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Helen Holton

The major goal of the Heritage Center is to raise awareness to women’s contributions to our state’s history. Commissioner Holton is a member of its Executive board, Commissioner Chair White and Commissioner Cornish are members of the Board of Directors.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. Prince George’s WE³ ConferenceLorna Forde

Lorna Forde represented the MCW at the September 20 Women’s Empowerment Conference in Largo. She reported that there were a number of officials there, and that many of the speakers were very impressive.

B. MLAW Conference.....Dr. White

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) meets monthly. The annual MLAW Fall Legislative Conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 15 at the Miller Branch Library in Ellicott City. Dr. White encouraged all commissioners to join MLAW, stating that it is an important voice for Maryland women in the legislative process and she encouraged all to attend the fall conference.

C. MD Women’s Legislative Briefing.....Nicole Drew

Nicole Drew attended the October 2 planning meeting for the January 25, 2015 Women’s Legislative Briefing. This will be the WLB’s 35th anniversary and the theme for the event is “Build the World You Want through Advocacy and Legislation.” She recommended that the MCW sponsor the WLB at Level IV which includes an exhibit table, discounted attendance for three representatives plus participation by the Chair in the President’s Networking Session, at a cost of \$125. Dr. White suggested that the MCW review its budget before making a decision on sponsorship of the WLB. Velvet Johnson suggested that the MCW offer to coordinate one of the seminars at the WLB. Lorna Forde agreed to send the MCW information regarding organization of the seminars.

D. MD Women Moving Forward Conference.....Roseanna Vogt
Commissioner Vogt thanked Velvet Johnson and Wandra Ashley-Williams for joining this committee. The conference was held October 11 at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women in Jessup. The event was a success, offering much appreciated seminars, a fashion show, mentoring and more. The MCW not only contributed to the planning but also sent bags with gifts for the women incarcerated there.

E. Region III CFW Meeting.....Dr. White
Dr. Kathleen White reported that a meeting of Commissions for Women in our six-state Region III is scheduled for Friday, November 14 in Pennsylvania. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the possibility of establishing a Network of Mid-Atlantic Commissions for Women. All commissioners are invited to attend. Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director, will be attending. The region includes Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

VII. Staff Report.....Judith Vaughan-Prather

A. Status of MCW Office

Program Manager Crystal Young and Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather have worked hard to transition the office to its new location in Rockville. It is now fully functional.

B. MCW Budget for FY 15

The MCW's operating budget for this year which must cover meeting and travel expenses, postage, phone service, supplies, etc., was included in the packets for tonight's meeting. Dr. White advised the committee chairs to consider their plans for the year and to inform the MCW as soon as possible of any anticipated funding needs.

Commissioner Mathur inquired whether commissioners can fundraise to support the MCW agenda. Dr. White responded that the MCW cannot fundraise directly, but it can accept donations. The Friends of the MCW is a 501(c)3 organization, and as mentioned earlier, would welcome assistance in raising funds for the MCW's activities.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Commissioner Appointments

There are 25 positions on the MCW. Presently, there are three commissioners whose terms have expired and three vacant positions.

B. Attendance

Dr. White asked Diane Williams and the Ad Hoc Committee to review the MCW bylaws regarding attendance requirements and the feasibility of building in provisions for attending meetings via conference call.

IX. New Business

A. Possible April Symposium

Dr. White said that she will bring a proposal for a MCW-sponsored symposium in April 2015 to the next meeting.

B. Open House at New MCW Office

Dr. White asked the commissioners to consider the possibility of holding the December meeting at the MCW's new offices in Rockville.

X. Announcements:

A. The State of Maryland is holding a **Cyber Security Conference** October 29 and 30. Velvet Johnson will be one of the panelists discussing Women is CyberSecurity.

B. The **Maryland NAACP Conference** will be held October 24 – 25, including a legislative component.

XI. Adjournment.....Dr. White

Dr. White thanked the commissioners for attending and for all their hard work. She adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Wandra Ashley-Williams
Secretary
Maryland Commission for Women
11/16/2014

APPROVED: 1/15/2015