

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 19, 2017
5 p.m.

Attman-Glazer Building – Room 164
45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, Maryland

Commissioners Attending:

Lee Bachu, Chair
Wandra Ashley-Williams, Secretary T/C
Homayara Aziz
Tammy Bresnahan
Deborah Cartee
Lorna Forde T/C
Nicole Ingram
Velvet Johnson
Bonnie Luna T/C
Marion Manski
Anita Riley
Carole Sepe
Corinna Shen
Ummu Bradley Thomas

A. Diane Williams, Vice Chair
Tamara England Wilson
Marylou Yam
Yun Jung Yang T/C

Commissioners Absent:

Tawanda Bailey
Marianne Brackney
Gloria Chang
April Nyman

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

I. Call to Order.....Lee Bachu, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Chair Bachu welcomed those in attendance and thanked Vice Chair Williams for conducting last month's meeting in her absence.

A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Bachu called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Thomas so moved. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Bresnahan, passed unanimously. It was noted that there may be a few items not on the agenda that can be brought up and discussed under "New Business."

B. Approval of Minutes:

Chair Bachu called for approval of the minutes of the September 21 MCW meeting. Commissioner Thomas so moved. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. Chair's Report.....Chair Bachu

A. Open Meetings Act Training

The Commission received a letter from the state's Attorney General's Office advising it of changes in the state's Open Meeting Act legislation which mandate that at least one member of all state boards and commissions be designated for training in the Open Meetings Act requirements and that this "member designee" must take the training within 90 days of the designation. The MCW office must keep a record of the names of the "member designees" and the date they took the training. Chair Bachu designated herself and Vice Chair Williams as the official "member designees." It appears that access to the on-line training is available to anyone interested, so any commissioners may take the training at http://www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class_oma_introl.php .

B. Maryland Women's Business Center Luncheon

The MCW received an invitation on October 4, to serve as a "promotional partner" for the annual awards luncheon sponsored by the Maryland Women's Business Center. In return for sharing the invitation to the event, the MCW could send a representative to the luncheon at no cost, place MCW materials on the display tables and was listed as a promotional partner on the scrolling slide show during the event. The event met the criteria adopted by the MCW for its sponsorship and the Executive Committee agreed to participate. Commissioner Forde represented the MCW at the luncheon on October 17. She reported that the event was well-attended and offered presentations from numerous excellent speakers including a representative of Governor Hogan. The keynote speaker was Dr. Maya Rockeymore Cummings, President of the Center for Global Policy Solutions.

C. NAACP WIN Breakfast Event

At its June planning meeting, the MCW agreed to sponsor the Maryland NAACP WIN event again this year with a sponsorship of \$200. This year the WIN (Women in the NAACP) event will be held on Saturday, October 28 at 7 a.m. and the cost is \$30 per person, so the MCW can purchase admission for six. Commissioners Bachu, Williams, Johnson, Thomas and Bresnahan agreed to represent the MCW at the event. Staff was asked to see if one of the Commissioners not present at tonight's meeting would like to take the remaining seat, and to purchase the five or six admissions.

III. New Business

A. AAUW Maryland Title IX Initiative.....Executive Director Vaughan-Prather

Erin Prangley, a representative of AAUW Maryland called the MCW office today at the recommendation of Commissioner Forde. AAUW is concerned that Title IX implementation guidance documents issued by the U.S. Department of Education in 2011 and 2014 have been rescinded. This guidance did not create new policies but was intended to help schools, colleges and universities understand the implications of statutes and court rulings concerning the obligations of schools to enforce Title IX. Its rescinding may leave Title IX Coordinators without clear understanding of their role and the implementation of the law. AAUW has been in contact with the Maryland Attorney General's Office and is developing a plan to meet with the University System of Maryland Institutions to offer itself as a resource on Title IX. Executive Director Vaughan Prather told Ms. Prangley that the MCW sets its agenda for the year in June and would probably not be able to take on any new initiatives until then as its agenda for this year is very full. Ms. Prangley said that works well

with AAUW Maryland's developing initiative. In the meantime, she might contact MLAW and the Montgomery County Commission for Women to offer to make a presentation on this subject at the upcoming legislative conferences.

B. MCW Meeting Time

The heavy traffic that delayed many commissioners' arrival for tonight's meeting inspired a proposal to change the meeting start time. After discussion it was decided to leave the start time at 5 p.m. as changing it would mean that some current commissioners could not attend at all.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Hall of Fame.....Commissioner Cartee for Brackney

The call for nominations for the HOF was first issued Monday, September 25. The closing date for receipt of nominations is Friday, October 27. It is hoped that the Selection Committee will review the nominations and make the final decisions regarding whom to induct by December 2. Commissioners are urged to share the Call for Nominations with their networks.

B. Women of Tomorrow.....Commissioner Sepe

The call for nominations for the WOT was issued on October 16. Nominators have until November 9 to submit their candidates. The Call has been sent to the Guidance Coordinators' offices in every jurisdiction in the state and to the MCW's distribution lists which have more than 700 recipients. At its next meeting, the WOT Committee will identify the Selection Committee. It is hoped that the final decisions on the honorees can be made by December 8.

C. Listening Tour.....Commissioner Ingram

Sixteen sessions of the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour have been conducted since July 2016, with a combined attendance of 720. The Listening Tour has traveled to:

- Washington County
- Baltimore County
- Garrett County
- WOW Conference at NDMU
- Howard County
- Prince George's County
- Calvert County
- MCIW
- Montgomery County
- Frederick County
- Charles County
- Anne Arundel County
- Harford County
- Allegany County
- St. Mary's County
- Worcester County

There are three more sessions scheduled, and all commissioners are encouraged to attend:

- Baltimore City on October 23
- Mid-Shore at Chesapeake College on October 24
- Girl Scout Council of Central Maryland at McDaniel College in West Minster on November 6.

The participants in these jurisdictions have listed well over 300 "issues" or "challenges" facing the women of Maryland. Many of them are specific aspects of larger issues, and are likely to be combined once the data analysis begins. The issues are rising to the top right now:

- Affordable, quality child care
- Domestic violence/sexual assault
- Too few women in public office/politically engaged
- Affordable housing for low income women, single mothers and older women
- Transportation
- Addictions and substance abuse problems

Three other issues that are not far behind are:

- Jobs that pay a living wage
- Equal Pay/Comparable Worth
- Sex bias in the schools, steering girls away from STEM and into sex-role stereotyped career preparation
- Human Trafficking

The Listening Tour's online survey has received completed questionnaires from a total of 1010 respondents as of today:

- Spanish 70
- English 825
- Korean 75
- Chinese 40

D. Education and Outreach.....Commissioner Wilson

The Committee plans to organize the MCW's round table meeting of county CFWs in the spring. It has distributed 11 issue alerts since July 1, three in October. The first planning meeting for the Women Moving Forward Conference at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women will be held on November 1 and Commissioner Bailey, who co-chairs the Education and Outreach Committee, will attend.

E. Legislation and Public Policy.....Commissioner Bresnahan

The committee met and drafted its work plan for 2017-18. The commission already approved two pieces of legislation for action in 2018 – the Rape Survivors Family Protection Act and the Discrimination in Employment – Conditions Related to Childbirth bill. The MCW supported both of these bills in the 2017 Maryland General Assembly but both failed. In May, Commissioner Aziz proposed that the MCW support another bill that failed in 2017: Health Insurance - Coverage of Fertility Preservation Procedures for Iatrogenic Infertility. This bill, which also failed in the General Assembly last year, would require private health insurance companies to provide coverage for preserving a woman's eggs when her fertility is threatened by chemotherapy required for treatment of breast cancer. Several states already have such legislation. After discussion, Commissioner Aziz moved that the MCW support this legislation if it is introduced in the Maryland General Assembly again in 2018. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Manski, passed unanimously.

F. Public Relations and Communications.....Commissioner Aziz
The Commission’s Facebook page already has 1200 “likes.” One post had 600 “views.” The goal of the committee is to increase the number of “likes” to 1500 before the holidays. The MCW continues to update its website as well.

G. Health and Wellness.....Commissioner Yam
The Committee posted three health alerts in October. It is developing a section on both HPV and Opioid Addictions to add to the MCW’s on-line women’s health information and resource directory.

V. Liaison Reports

A. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Chair Bachu
As reported earlier this year, the Center lost its free space at its former location on West Lexington Street in Baltimore. So far, it has been unable to locate another suitable facility, despite exploring a number of possibilities. All the Center’s possessions have been packed up and placed in storage while the search continues. Any commissioner with any contacts or ideas of possible new locations is urged to contact the Center and offer assistance. In the meantime, the Center is offering some seminars at a local community center, is planning its annual Women’s History Month program for March 2018 and is updating its website to maintain its “virtual presence.”

B. 19th Amendment Commemoration Commission.....Vice Chair Williams
Both Chair Bachu and Vice Chair Williams attended a conference call meeting of the 19th Amendment Commemoration Commission last week. The MCW’s website now has a link to the 19th Amendment Commission’s website on our home page. Any commissioners interested in working on one of its committees is invited to volunteer and can do so by contacting Vice Chair Williams. The 19th Amendment Commission hopes to have a “kick off event” in March to place some historic site markers related to the women’s suffrage movement in Maryland.

C. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women..... Secretary Ashley-Williams
The MLAW Fall Conference is fast approaching. It will be held on Saturday, November 18 at the Howard County Community College in Columbia. The MCW is a “silver sponsor of this conference and decided at last month’s meeting to send a delegation of five commissioners: Chair Bachu, Vice Chair Diane Williams, Secretary Ashley-Williams and Commissioners Bresnahan and Riley who are both on the MLAW Board of Directors.

D. Maryland FMLI Task Force.....Executive Director Vaughan-Prather
The Maryland Family and Medical Leave Insurance Task Force was established by state law in 2016 and has been meeting over the past year to consider options for creating a paid family and medical leave insurance program for employees in the state. It is chaired by Senator Brian Feldman and Delegate Ariana Kelly. The Task Force meets again in November and must develop a report of its findings and recommendations before the end of this calendar year.

E. Friends of the Maryland Commission for Women (FMCW)...Vice Chair Williams

The Commission has received a letter of invitation from the FMCW inviting the MCW to a meeting on November 11, stating:

“As we are preparing for the upcoming year it is our desire to work with the Maryland Commission for Women as well as representatives from county commissions in the state. We are hosting our meeting in Annapolis at The Lighthouse located at 10 Hudson Street on Friday, November 10, 2017 from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We invite your participation and input as we plan for the upcoming year. A light lunch will be served.”

It was noted that, because the name of the MCW is included in the name of the FMCW, if the FMCW sponsors programs independently of the MCW, it will appear to others that any such program is in fact a program of or at least endorsed by the MCW.

Vice Chair Williams said that it is important for the MCW to be represented at this meeting. It was agreed that some commissioners will attend to hear what the FMCW is planning but to make no commitments on the part of the MCW at this point. Commissioners Yang, Thomas, and Vice Chair Williams agreed to represent the MCW at this meeting. Commissioner Riley agreed tentatively to attend if her calendar permits.

VI. Staff Report.....Executive Director Vaughan-Prather

A. Staffing:

Management Associate Tammy Wise is scheduled to return to work on November 13. Commissioners are asked to please leave voice messages if they call the office and get no response. For most days, there is no one to answer the phone if the Director is unavailable and the phones do not record missed calls the way more modern phones do.

B. Annual Report

The annual report has been sent to the print shop and will be available by the November MCW meeting.

C. ACIE Professional Fellows Program

The MCW Executive Director participated as a panelist at the orientation conference for the American Councils for International Education Professional Fellows who are in the U.S. this fall, discussing citizen advocacy in public policy making – a new concept in many of the countries represented by these “fellows.”

VII. Announcements

No announcements were brought before the commission.

VIII. Adjournment.....Chair Bachu

Chair Bachu adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women

APPROVED: November 16, 2017