

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2019

5 p.m.

Conference Call

Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Tawanda Bailey, First Vice Chair
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair
Tammy Bresnahan
Deborah Cartee
Gloria Chang
Maureen Colburn
Amanda Costley
Melissa Curtin
Eugenia Henry
Lauren Lambert
Bonnie Luna
Brenda McChriston
Ishrat Memon
April Nyman

Evelyne Steward
Ummu Bradley Thomas
Tamara England Wilson
Marylou Yam

Commissioners Absent:

Homayara Aziz
Lee Bachu
Roberta Pardo
Corinna Shen

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Tammy Wise, Management Associate

I. Call to Order.....Chair Yang

Due to inclement weather forecast, today's meeting was changed to a conference call as permitted by the MCW Bylaws. Commission Chair Yang and Commissioner Steward joined the MCW staff at the MCW office to conduct the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by MCW Chair Yang who welcomed those in attendance and wished all a happy and healthy New Year. She thanked the commissioners for their flexibility in the changing the meeting to a conference call. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Yam moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Cartee seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Chair Yang then called for approval of the minutes of the November 15 meeting. Commissioner Steward moved approval of the minutes as submitted. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Lambert, passed unanimously.

II. Executive Committee Report.....Chair Yang

A. 2018 CFW Roundtable Meeting

On a chilly, rainy November 17, 32 representatives of 11 Commissions for Women from the various jurisdictions of Maryland gathered to share information, ideas and strategies for improving the lives of women and girls in their communities.). Represented at the meeting were delegations Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s and Washington Counties.

The Commission for Women Roundtable Meeting was held in concert with the annual fall conference of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW). The MCW invited each county/city Commission for Women (CFW) to send two representatives to the MLAW Conference and to stay later for the CFW Roundtable Meeting. In this way, the CFW representatives heard from state-wide women’s advocacy organizations about issues that will be considered in the Maryland General Assembly in 2019. They then met with representatives of other Commissions for Women in the state to learn from each other and to discuss strategies and issues unique to these governmentally-established advisory boards.

Three speakers addressed the Roundtable: Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin discussed the plans to establish a Museum of Maryland Women’s History in Queen Anne’s County – with the goal of opening in 2020. Amanda Rodriguez of the University of Maryland SAFE Center for victims of human trafficking invited the commissions to help establish a state-wide network of attorneys who will offer legal services at a reduced fee to trafficking victims. Amanda Costley discussed the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards and urged the commissioners to consider nominating women and girls from their communities for these honors.

After these presentations, the MCW provided a briefing on its Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour and the findings in its recently published report, outlining the “top five” issues identified by the women who participated in the public forums and the survey. The local commissioners then shared their commissions’ top three projects for this year to illustrate how the commissions are addressing those top five issues.

Commissions for Women generally have big challenges and scarce resources. All in attendance agreed that they can share ideas, and encouraged each other to stay in touch. A successful project in one jurisdiction can serve as a model for a successful project in another. The local CFWs were encouraged to support and participate in the annual Women’s Legislative Briefing in Montgomery County on January 27, 2019, and to consider helping the UMD Safe Center develop its state-wide network of attorneys for victims of human trafficking. The Commissions for Women in Maryland can work together, and independently to address issues at the local level and those that can be addressed at the state level.

B. 2019 Meeting Schedule

The list of Commission meetings and Executive Committee meetings was included in the packets for tonight’s meeting. Commissioners were encouraged to mark their calendars in advance and to hold those dates.

C. Attendance Policy

Commissioners were reminded that the Commission’s enabling legislation provides that any commissioner who misses more than 50% of the regularly scheduled meetings in a 12-month period has resigned from the Commission. The MCW staff is required to submit an attendance report to the Governor’s Appointments Office each January. The MCW Bylaws permit each commissioner to attend up to two meetings per year via teleconference (not counting meetings where the entire meeting is conducted via conference call), and no more than four commissioners may attend via teleconference at any one meeting. Requests to participate via teleconference must be made at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Teleconference participation is given to the fist four commissioners requesting it.

III. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was brought before the Commission.

IV. New Business

A. Health Information Exchange (HIE) Policy Board

The Maryland Health Care Commission invited the MCW to send a representative to its staff advisory workgroup, the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Policy Board. Commissioner Wilson is willing to represent the MCW on this group. The MCW staff will inquire as to whether the representative can be a commissioner or if it must be a staff person.

B. Emily Saunders Plummer Reception

Earlier this week, commissioners received an invitation to a lecture and reception celebrating the 2018 induction of Emily Saunders Plummer into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame. The event will be held on Sunday, February 10, lecture at 1:30 p.m. and reception at 2:30 p.m. at Riversdale House Museum at 4811 Riverdale Road in Riverdale Park. Commissioners Thomas, Memon and Yang agreed to attend.

C. Mothering Justice Event

The “State of the Mama” will be held on Monday, January 28, 2018; 2 – 4 p.m. in Washington D.C. to highlight the concerns of women of color and discuss the opportunities that exist to meet those needs. Through advocacy, leadership development, voter empowerment, and promoting family-friendly advocacy, Mothering Justice aims to raise the voices of mothers and help them become policy makers and shapers. The overall goal of this organization is to empower a well-organized group of mothers that can engage fellow mothers and law makers around a variety of issues that affect working families. For more information, visit <https://motheringjustice.org>

D. Snowball Fundraising Event

The Mary Edwardine Bourke Emory Foundation is hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Maryland Museum of Women’s History initiative on February 9, 6 – 11 p.m. at the Fishermen’s Inn in Grasonville, MD. The cost to attend is \$75. Commissioners Cartee and Thomas will both try to attend.

V. Committee Reports

A. PAL (Policy and Legislation) Committee.....Bresnahan

As a result of the November elections, there are 66 new members of the Maryland General Assembly – 18 new Senators and 44 new Delegates. For the first time ever, women will serve as both the Speaker Pro Tem (in the House) and the President Pro Tem (in the Senate).

There are quite a number of committee leadership changes as well and women are holding more leadership position than ever before. For example, Sen. Nancy King is now Chair of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee; Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam is Vice Chair of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, Sen. Joanne Benson is Chair of the Senate Rules Committee, and Sen. Deloris Kelley is Chair of the Finance Committee and Sen. Pamela Beidel is Vice Chair of the Executive Nominations Committee. In the House, Del. Maggie McIntosh chairs the Appropriations Committee with Del. Tawanna Gaines as Vice Chair, Del. Joseline Peña Melnyk chairs the Health and Government Operations Committee, while Del. Anne Healey chairs the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee with Del. Cheryl Glenn as Vice Chair. Del. Vanessa Atterbeary is the new Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee, and Del. Anne Kaiser is Chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

The 10-member Maryland delegation to the U.S. Congress remains all male.

Commissioner Bresnahan recommended that the MCW send letters of congratulations to all the Maryland General Assembly standing committee chairs and vice chairs. Commissioner Bailey so moved, and Commissioner Steward seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion passed with 17 in favor and two abstentions, the decision having been made via roll call vote. Staff was asked to prepare the letters.

Commissioners Bresnahan reported that a bill has been re-introduced this year that would require the Department of Corrections to provide a pre-release unit for incarcerated women with pre-release services equal to those provided to incarcerated men. Commissioner Bresnahan moved that the MCW take a position in support of this legislation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colburn and passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Commissioner Bresnahan then discussed the salary history legislation that would, among other things, prohibit employers from asking a job candidate's current wages and from basing the salary offered to new hires on their former wages. Such practices tend to perpetuate the traditionally lower wages paid to women workers. Commissioner Colburn moved to support this bill, seconded by Commissioner Thomas. After some discussion the motion passed, via roll call vote, with 18 in favor and one abstention. The National Women's Law Center is coordinating a state-wide coalition of organizations supporting this legislation and has invited the MCW to participate. Commissioner Colburn volunteered to represent the MCW on this coalition.

B. 2020 Women's Leadership Conference.....Henry
The committee will meet later this evening and will have much more to report at the next MCW meeting.

C. 2019 ARC (Achievement & Recognition Ceremony) Committee.....Cartee
The selection committees met on January 8 to make the final selections of the honorees for 2019. The committees were made up of representatives from statewide women's organizations including AAUW, BPW, the Women's Law Center of Maryland, the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, Notre Dame University of Maryland, the Maryland Women's Bar Association and the Caucus of Maryland Women Legislators. Five students will receive the Maryland Women of Tomorrow Award and eight women will be inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame at a ceremony on March 21 in Annapolis. Senator Susan Lee is our

sponsor for the use of the Miller Senate Office Building and former Congresswoman and Ambassador Connie Morella will be the Mistress of Ceremonies. The contract with the caterer has been signed. The theme for this year’s ceremony will be: Voices of Visionary Women: our heritage and our future.

This year, the nominations were all submitted on-line. There were 60 nominees for the Women of Tomorrow and 23 for the Hall of Fame. Commissioner Cartee invited her committee to hold a conference call on Monday, February 11 at 4 p.m. Each committee member will be asked to serve as liaison to the honorees. The committee is still seeking sponsorships. Commissioner Henry announced that her company will donate a \$5000 sponsorship through the WAG Foundation. Commissioners expressed their deep appreciation for this generous support. Commissioners Chang, Yam, Memom, Henry and McChriston all volunteered to help out with tasks at the ceremony, such as registration and hosting. Chair Yang encouraged all commissioners to come early (3 p.m.) and help with set up.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Yang
No report.

B. 19th Amendment Commemoration Commission.....Bachu and Thomas
Commissioner Thomas reported that this board has met three times since the MCW’s November meeting, and she attended the first two of those meetings. She shared the information the MCW found about the suffragists from Maryland and reminded the 19th Amendment Commission of the MCW’s invitation to join in planning the 2020 Conference. The 19th Amendment Commission doesn’t know what its budget will be yet so can’t plan events until later. Commissioner Bachu attended the meeting earlier this week when that commission was introduced on the floor of the state Senate. Commissioner Wilson asked if the the events planned by that commission will include the full story of voting rights, beyond just the passage of the 19th amendment to include the story of those whose rights were not guaranteed by that act. She will share information with more background on this issue with the commission.

C. MLAW.....Curtin
MLAW invited all its members to vote on the agenda of bills it will support this year and has issued that list now. Its February 12 legislative reception and briefing in Annapolis is already “sold out.” Commissioners who have not yet registered but who want to attend are encouraged to register on the wait list as soon as possible.

D. 2019 Women’s Legislative Briefing.....Colburn
The Briefing is scheduled for Sunday, January 27 at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville. This is the largest annual women’s conference in the state with an attendance of 500 – 700 each year. Commissioners Steward and Bresnahan have been invited to participate as panelists and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will moderate one of the seminars at the Briefing. Commission Chair Yang will attend the President’s Networking Session and Management Associate Tammy Wise will create and staff the MCW exhibit. The MCW is a community co-sponsor of the Briefing. All Commissioners are encouraged to let the staff know by January 22 if they want to attend.

E. Maryland WAG Foundation.....Shen
No report as Commissioner Shen is ill, but the WAG Foundation is working on developing sponsorships for the Hall of Fame/Women of Tomorrow ceremony.

F. Women Moving Forward Conference.....Curtin
A three-hour conference is planned at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women on Saturday, April 13. To be consistent with the Warden’s priorities, it will feature round-table discussions with professional facilitators focusing on mental health issues. The planning committee is looking to hire a project manager to help coordinate the conference.

G. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group
No report as Commissioner Aziz was not in attendance, but Executive Director Vaughan-Prather reported that the group has not yet held its first meeting.

H. Museum of Maryland Women’s History.....Cartee
See the earlier report of the upcoming fundraising event planned to support the efforts to establish the new museum and rehabilitate the beautiful but old and much in need of repairs mansion in which it is to be housed.

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

A. 2018 Annual Report

The report was finally published the day after the MCW November meeting and was shared with the attendees of the CFW Roundtable Meeting. Hard copies were to be given to commissioners at this evening’s meeting, but will have to be shared at the next one. It is available on the MCW website now. Copies will be available at the upcoming Women’s Legislative Briefing.

B. New MCW Brochure

The brochure was also printed and shared with the attendees of the CFW Roundtable Meeting. Again, it was planned to be shared with commissioners at tonight’s meeting but since the meeting was changed to a conference call, that was impossible. Copies will be available at the upcoming Women’s Legislative Briefing.

VIII. Announcements

None

IX. Adjournment.....Yang

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women

APPROVED: February 21, 2019