

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2019

5 p.m.

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD

Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair

Lee Bachu T/C

Tammy Bresnahan

Deborah Cartee

Gloria Chang

Maureen Colburn

Amanda Costley

Melissa Curtin

Eugenia Henry T/C

Lauren Lambert

Bonnie Luna

Brenda McChriston

Ishrat Memon

Roberta Pardo

Evelyne Steward

Tamara England Wilson T/C

Marylou Yam

Commissioners Absent:

Tawanda Bailey, First Vice Chair

Patricia M. Lambert

April Nyman

Corinna Shen

Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair

Ummu Bradley Thomas

Staff Attending:

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director

I. Call to Order.....Yang

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by MCW Chair Yang.

B. Approval of Agenda

Chair Yang called for approval of the agenda. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather added three items. Commissioner Yam moved approval of the agenda as amended. Commissioner Pardo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Yang called for approval of the minutes of the June 20 MCW meeting. Commissioner Curtin moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Costley. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Executive Committee Report.....Yang

A. Status of Women in Maryland (SWIM) Research Project

Over the summer, following DHS procurement practices, proposals were solicited for researchers to conduct the study. MCW Chair Yang and Second VP Sepe attended the bid opening conference with the staff, members of the Procurement Office and representatives of the Attorney General's Office. The firm Psychometric Solutions submitted the winning bid.

On Monday of this week, Chair Yang and the Executive Director met with the president of Psychometric Solutions to develop a schedule of meetings and progress on the report, which is to be complete and published in time to present at the 2020 Summit.

B. January 2020 MCW Meeting Location

The conference rooms in 45 Calvert Street are not available on January 16. Attempts will be made to locate a meeting site in the Annapolis area.

C. CFW Roundtable Meeting at the MLAW Conference

Commissioner Curtin is the MCW liaison to the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW). She reported that MLAW is planning to hold its annual Fall Conference on November 23 at the Chesapeake Arts Center, and that MLAW is expecting the MCW to hold its Roundtable Meeting of all county/city Commissions for Women in the state at this conference, as it has for the past several years.

D. Summit Steering Committee

At the June MCW meeting, commissioners volunteered to coordinate various aspects of the Summit planning. However, a great deal of work establishing the foundation for the Summit was required over the summer months, and efforts needed to be closely coordinated. The Executive Committee decided to create a Summit Steering Committee, consisting of the three MCW officers and the chair and co-chair of the Summit Planning Committee. Those five have been meeting twice per month to develop the venue for the event, a funding plan with the Foundation, partnerships with related organizations, etc. Commissioners interested in serving on the Steering Committee were invited to join. Commissioners Yam, Cartee and Bachu volunteered. Other Commissioners will be called upon as the planning progresses. The Steering Committee will continue meeting twice per month for the foreseeable future.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Commission Approval of Sponsorships and Memberships

At the June meeting, a list of 2019 – 2020 event sponsorships and organization memberships was presented to the Commission for its approval. Considerable discussion followed including a motion giving the Chair and the Executive Director “authority” to approve expenditures up to \$250 without consulting the Commission. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather noted that the discussion had gotten off-course. As the Executive Director, she is already authorized to make budget and expenditure decisions. The question put before the Commission was not about budget, it was about which events and organizations the MCW wishes to support. She suggested that the Commission will want to continue to review that list every year and not leave that decision to staff alone.

B. Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Response

In June, the MCW wrote to DPSCS Secretary Green encouraging a change in the department’s policies regarding the provision of feminine hygiene products to women incarcerated in its facilities. The Secretary responded in July saying that the department has “revamped its policy to ensure women who are incarcerated at a correctional facility overseen by the Department receive the proper menstrual hygiene products free of charge . . . on a routine basis, and upon request.” He said that “The department also refunded those women . . . who paid for menstrual hygiene products . . .” and that “the Department will work with its commissary vendor to offer certain brand name products . . . for purchase to accommodate personal preference.”

IV. New Business

A. Outreach from the Citizen Review Board for Children (CRBC)

The CRBC monitors the placement of and services to children in the state’s custody in foster care to ensure that they receive adequate and appropriate services. The CRBC would like the MCW’s help in seeking volunteers across the state to serve on the CRBC at the local level. The CRBC will be invited to send a representative to the CFW Roundtable meeting on November 23.

B. Montgomery County Commission for Women (MC CFW) Invitation

The MC CFW has written to all the local CFWs in the state inviting them to join with it in lobbying the state legislature on issues of concern to the women of Maryland. Some discussion followed as to whether this duplicates the efforts of MLAW, but it will be up to each CFW to decide whether it will participate.

C. Howard County Commission for Women (HC CFW) Invitation

The HC CFW has invited the members of the MCW who reside in Howard County to attend one of its meetings and discuss commission work at the state level. Commissioner Curtin will coordinate the response and suggested that the MCW Chair and Executive Director also participate.

V. Committee Reports

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

No report.

B. 2019 ARC (Achievement & Recognition Ceremony) Committee.....Cartee

The ARC Committee, which plans the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards program has met twice over the summer. It will continue meeting via conference call on the second Tuesday of each month until the ceremony in March 2020. The Committee reviewed the on-line nomination forms from last year line by line and made some adjustments and updates. Senator Susan Lee as agreed to sponsor the MCW’s use of the Miller Senate Office Building again this year for the induction and awards ceremony. At the suggestion of the Caucus of Maryland Women Legislators, the ceremony will be moved from a Thursday to a Monday evening to make it easier for legislators to attend. After some discussion, the MCW decided to hold the program at 4 – 6 p.m. and hold the reception at 6 – 7:30 p.m., to accommodate the participants’ schedules and the traffic in Annapolis. The theme for this year will be “Valiant Women: Their Legacy/Our Future. Opening date for nominations is September 30. Closing date for submission for nominations is November 1. The Committee is looking for ways to make the registration process smoother and faster. Commissioner Cartee brought in an example of a nametag pickup station that might help. Commissioners suggested that the registration be moved out into the main foyer of the building, and to ensure that the on-line registration site captures the name of every attendee so that nametags may be prepared in advance for each person, including their guests.

C. 2020 Women’s Centennial Conference.....Henry

The Steering Committee met several times over the summer to select a venue for the event. With the goal of holding it on the actual anniversary date of August 26, and in Annapolis, the choices were narrowed and finally, after several visits, the Westin Hotel Annapolis has been selected.

The event’s original name was the 2020 Women’s Leadership Summit, but the committee recently learned that there are quite a number of programs that share that name or something similar. The new name of the event will be: The 2020 Women’s Centennial Summit. The Steering Committee believes that name better reflects the purpose and content of the Summit and those in attendance agreed. The MCW’s non-profit foundation has agreed to support the event.

It was reported at the June MCW meeting that the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center’s board had approved a \$25,000 sponsorship of the Summit, and that it would serve as a partner in planning the event. However, the Center has withdrawn that offer. It will most likely still sponsor the Summit at a lower level.

MCW Chair Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather met with the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) staff and the Chair of the Maryland Commission to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States (the 19th Amendment Commission) earlier this month. Both organizations have agreed to collaborate with the MCW in organizing the Summit. The MHT will provide a speaker at the opening ceremonies to tell the story of the Suffrage Movement in Maryland, and will provide its “Story Map” to be projected throughout the day exhibiting historic sites in Maryland that were important to the movement. The Summit will include a special induction of Maryland Suffragists into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and the MHT has agreed to develop the nominations of 3 – 4 honorees.

Dr. Linda Singh, chair of the 19th Amendment Commission, has agreed to lend the name of her Commission to the event, to help promote it and to conduct one of the seminars designed for young women based on her new book “What’s In Your Box?”

VI. Liaison Reports

A. The Foundation for the MCW.....Steward and Yang for Shen

The Maryland WAG Foundation – the Fund for Maryland’s Women and Girls decided to change its name to something that more accurately reflects its purpose – to support programs and services of the MCW. The new name is The Foundation for The Maryland Commission for Women (The FMCW, or “The Foundation”). Board members have been hard at work changing the website, Facebook page, email accounts, stationery, brochure, IRS and state tax registration, etc. The FMCW has set a goal of raising \$90,000 to support the Summit and other MCW programs, including the Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Awards Ceremony. It has developed a fundraising plan and hopes that Commissioners will help. It will seek both corporate and individual sponsorships. It is also establishing a Women100 program through which individual women may be honored with donations of \$100 or \$250 for inclusion in a special book the FMCW will produce in time for the Summit. Commissioner suggested looking into the establishment of a “Go Fund Me” site for the Foundation, and also reaching out to former commissioners for support.

- B. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Yang**
The next meeting of the Center’s Board is October 5.
- C. 19th Amendment Commemoration CommissionBachu**
The Commission’s Chair presented to proposal to support the Women’s Centennial Summit at its last meeting, and it was positively received by those in attendance.
- D. MLAW.....Curtin**
As reported earlier, MLAW’s annual Fall Conference is planned for November 23 at the Chesapeake Arts Center. Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, Adrienne Jones will be a featured speaker. At this conference, proposals for legislation the MLAW will support will be presented.
- E. 2020 Women Moving Forward Conference.....Curtin**
Preliminary planning has just begun for the Saturday, April 11, 2020 program at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. Commissioner Curtin will keep the MCW informed as plans develop.
- F. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group.....Costley**
Commissioner Costley was appointed to this board. It has met only three times. She attended its most recent meeting. It is still a very new organization but seems to be a really good group of professionals with an important mandate: examining how best to serve women, especially those most vulnerable, in the year following childbirth when health issues related to the pregnancy or childbirth may go undiagnosed.
- G. Museum of Maryland Women’s History.....Cartee**
Commissioner Cartee recommended that another Commissioner take on the role of liaison to the Museum, perhaps someone living on the Eastern Shore closer to its location in Queen Anne’s County.
- H. UMD SAFE Center.....Costley**
No report.
- I. Women’s Legislative Briefing (WLB).....Colburn**
The WLB will be held on January 26, 2020 at the Universities at Shady Grove. The theme for the Briefing will be “Women’s Voices and Votes Count.” The program will emphasize getting out the vote and ensuring that everyone is counted in the 2020 Census.

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

- A. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)**
Executive Director Vaughan-Prather represented the MCW at NACW’s annual conference in Chicago this July. She chose not to run for re-election to the Board of Directors this time but continues to co-chair the NACW project Voices of Women in America, modeled heavily after the MCW’s Voices of Maryland Women project. She has reached out to all the CFWs in Region 3 (Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, D.C., Delaware and Pennsylvania) and received a very positive response. Other NACW members are doing the same in their regions. The survey link and invitation to participate has been published not only by the other CFWs, but clearly they have shared it with their networks, as it has

appeared on the Hagerstown AAUW Facebook page and was recently shared by the Women’s Law Center of Maryland. CFWs in California and Hawaii are participating.

B. MCW Annual Report

The report covering July 2018 – June 2019 is at the print shop now and will be shared with commissioners at the October meeting.

C. Office Interns

The paid college intern who worked in the MCW office over the summer completed her internship and her project – updating all 188 biographies in the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame published on the Maryland State Archives website. Staff is reviewing the work and will send the updates to the Archives before the next MCW meeting.

VIII. Announcements

A. MCASA Event

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault is holding a “Call to Action” on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at Busboys & Poets in Hyattsville. For more information, visit <https://mcasa.org/Events/Event/MCASAs-Call-to-Action>

B. MWHC Event

A program discussing the life of Virginia Hall, who was inducted into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame this year, will be offered on October 19. Visit <https://mdwomensheritagecenter.org/upcoming-events/> for more information.

C. Howard County Diversity and Inclusion Symposium

Commissioner McChriston announced an upcoming symposium on Diversity and Inclusion, to be held September 25. She asked the staff to send the announcement via email to the commissioners.

D. Next Meeting Dates

Executive Committee: October 10 at 4 p.m.

MCW Meeting: October 17 at 5 p.m. at 45 Calvert Street in Annapolis

Commission First Vice Chair Bailey will chair this meeting.

IX. Adjournment.....Yang

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Judith Vaughan-Prather, Executive Director
Maryland Commission for Women

APPROVED: October 17, 2019