

# Maryland Commission for Women

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 16, 2021

5 p.m.

### Video Conference Call

#### Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair  
Tawanda A. Bailey, First Vice Chair  
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair  
Andrea Bottner  
Tammy Bresnahan  
Deborah L. Cartee  
Jenny Pena Dias-Hayes  
Essita Duncan  
Judith Emmel  
Kristi S. Halford  
Eugenia B. Henry  
Lauren M. Lambert  
Patricia McHugh Lambert  
Beth Anne Langrell  
Brenda J. McChriston

Maria Menucci  
Roberta Pardo  
Corrina Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen  
Maxine Griffin Somerville  
Evelyne S. Steward  
Tamara E. Wilson

#### Commissioners Absent:

Gloria Chang  
Bonnie N. Luna  
Luanne Ruddell

#### Staff Attending:

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

#### I. Call to Order.....Yang

A quorum having been established; the meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Chair Yang.

#### A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Yang called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather asked to add one item under the Liaison Reports. Commissioner Somerville moved approval of the agenda as amended. Commissioner P. Lambert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#### B. Approval of Minutes of the June 17, 2021 MCW Meeting

The Chair called for any amendments to the minutes of the June MCW meeting. Commissioner P. Lambert moved approval of the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Somerville seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#### C. Introduction of New Commissioners

At the June MCW meeting, two newly appointed Commissioners – Andrea Bottner and Judith Emmel, whose terms would begin July 1 were introduced. The Governor has since appointed two additional Commissioners – Dr. Maria Menucci and Jenny Pena Dias-Hayes, Ph.D. Their terms became effective immediately and tonight is their first meeting. Everyone present

introduced themselves to one another, and the two newest members were welcomed to the Commission.

**II. Executive Committee Report..... Yang**

**A. Resignation of Commissioner**

Commissioner Memon submitted her resignation for personal reasons, effective immediately. She has been a very valuable member of the Commission since 2014 and will be greatly missed.

**B. MCASA Call to Action Conference Sponsorship**

Discussion of the MCW’s sponsorships and memberships for FY 2022 was tabled at the June Planning Meeting until tonight. Earlier this month, the MCW received an invitation to sponsor the annual “Call to Action” event hosted by the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, which was scheduled for September 14. The Executive Committee reviewed the request and the MCW sponsorship policy and made the decision to contribute a \$100 sponsorship for this event.

**C. MCW 2021 – 2022 Sponsorships and Memberships**

A list of the MCW’s proposed FY 2022 sponsorships and organizational memberships was reviewed. Commissioner P. Lambert moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Langrell. After some discussion in which it was explained that approval of this list does not necessarily preclude sponsorship of other events that come up during the year, the motion passed with one abstention. Second Vice Chair Sepe reminded the Commissioners that the MCW has an established policy of only sponsoring events or contributing memberships to organizations that are state-wide in focus and whose goals fit with the MCW’s established positions and priorities.

**D. Speaker for October 21 MCW Meeting**

The Maryland Department of Veterans’ Affairs has recently established a new office on women veterans and inclusion. The newly hired program manager has been invited to talk to the MCW at the start of the October meeting to discuss the initiative and issues that may be of mutual interest to our two organizations.

**III. Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business was brought before the Commission.

**IV. New Business**

No new business was brought before the Commission.

## V. Committee Reports

### A. Policy and Legislation (PAL) Committee.....Halford

Nothing new to report this evening. The PAL Committee expects to become active later in the fall, especially around the MLAW Fall Conference.

### B. Achievement and Recognition (ARC) Committee.....Pardo

The call for nominations for both the 2022 Hall of Fame and the Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards will be issued a little later than usual this year in order not to conflict with the call for survey and focus group participation for the SWIM project. The Committee has scheduled its first meeting of this program year on October 13 at 4 p.m.

### C. Status of Women in Maryland (SWIM) Pandemic Impact Research.....Wilson

Commissioner Wilson reported that the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women in Maryland Research Project is well underway. She thanked her committee and all the commissioners for all their hard work with outreach to ensure that our research is inclusive of all women in the state.

In 2016, the Maryland Commission for Women launched the first phase of its three-part Status of Women in Maryland (SWIM) initiative with the *Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour*, traveling more than 3,000 miles across the state over a two-year period to conduct 19 public forums. In addition, a survey that was available in four languages, gathered further information from women who may not have been able to attend these in-person forums. *In Their Own Words: The Voices of Maryland Women*, published in August 2018, identified the top five issues presented by the more than 1400 women who participated in the Listening Tour and survey. In 2019, the Commission undertook Phase II of the Status of Women initiative: extracting and compiling the most current information available about Maryland women from statistics published by a range of federal and state agencies as well as private research and policy firms. *Maryland Women: A Status Report* was published in June 2021. That same month, the Commission launched Phase III of the SWIM research.

This final phase of the research will examine how Maryland women specifically have been affected by the pandemic over the past 17 months and seeks to understand the challenges they continue to face as society recovers.

The research project is being carried out in two steps. The first is an online survey available in five languages – English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and French. We have partnered with the 14 county Commissions for Women around the state, who have encouraged the women in their communities to participate in the survey. For counties from which at least 200 responses are received, we will provide that Commission for Women with the data for its county.

The survey was launched on August 4th and will close on September 30th. So far, more than 3000 women have completed the survey, with every one of the 24 major jurisdictions in Maryland participating.

MCW Chair Yang and Commissioner Wilson were invited to present a briefing on the SWIM research project to the Maryland General Assembly’s Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families on September 8 and another briefing was requested by the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights on September 12. Both briefings were very well received.

The second step in the project will be a series of six focus groups, which will be conducted virtually starting at the end of this month. Three of these groups will be general in focus. Three will concentrate on a specific area of impact: mothers with young children, women business owners, and essential workers.

The survey closes September 30. All commissioners are strongly urged to continue outreach for the survey for the next two weeks. Commissioner Pardo noted that she has found that personal outreach really encourages individuals to participate. Commissioner Wilson thanked all the commissioners again for their help with outreach for this project.

## **VI. Liaison Reports**

### **A. The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women.....Shen**

Nothing new to report this evening.

### **B. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.....Yang**

On Sunday, September 12, the Center unveiled its new historical marker commemorating the work of Suffragists Caroline Hallowell Miller and Mary Bentley Thomas. The Suffrage Marker was permanently installed on the grounds of the Sandy Springs Museum. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather represented the MCW at the event.

### **C. Women Moving Forward (WMF) Conference.....Bottner**

It was hoped that the conference for those incarcerated at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW) could be held in October, but it has now been postponed again. When a new date is known, the MCW will be informed. It appears that the MCIW has a new warden, Carol Harmon, appointed since the last time the MCW was involved with the WMF Conference.

### **D. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group.....Langrell**

No report.

### **E. Maryland Women’s History Museum.....Emmel**

No report.

### **F. UMD SAFE Center.....Somerville**

Commissioner Somerville has scheduled a meeting with the president of the Center to introduce herself and to discuss ways the MCW can support its work.

### **G. National Association of Commissions for Women.....Vaughan-Prather**

Commission Chair Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended one day of the annual NACW conference in Leesburg, VA in July. The organization has undergone several challenges the past year, including the resignation of its chair, and then of its new chair as both took new jobs and are no longer affiliated with Commissions for Women. A new chair, Marydith Tuitt of Massachusetts was elected at the conference. Three representatives of county Commissions for Women in Maryland were elected to the Board of Directors.

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

**A. Annual Report**

The FY 21 Annual Report covering the work of the MCW from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 has been completed, with approval by the MCW Committee chairs. It has been graphically designed and is now at the print shop. As soon as hard copies are received they will be sent to the Commissioners and a digital version will be posted on the MCW website.

**B. Staff/Schedules**

The staff continues to work from home four days per week.

**VIII. Announcements**

**A. Executive Committee Meeting:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 4:30 p.m.

**B. MCW Meeting:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 5:00 p.m.

**IX. Adjournment**

Chair Yang thanked all the commissioners, especially the SWIM Committee members, for all their hard work over the summer months and thanked the commissioners for their attendance at and exceedingly efficient participation in tonight's meeting. No further business being brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted:** October 14, 2021

**By:** Judith Vaughan-Prather

**Approved:** October 21, 2021