

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 21, 2021
5 p.m.

Video Conference Call

Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Tawanda A. Bailey, First 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
Maxine Griffin Somerville
Evelyne S. Steward
Tamara E. Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Gloria Chang
Luanne Ruddell
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair
Corrina Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen

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 5:02 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 Staff Reports. Commissioner Wilson moved approval of the agenda as amended. Commissioner P. Lambert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes of the September 16, 2021 MCW Meeting

The Chair called for any amendments to the minutes of the September MCW meeting. Executive Vaughan-Prather noted several minor corrections. Commissioner P. Lambert suggested changing language in one section of the Executive Committee Report. Commissioner Langrell moved approval of the minutes with these amendments. Commissioner Somerville seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

C. Introduction of Guest Speaker

MCW Chair introduced Roslyn Jones, Manager of the newly established Women/Inclusion Program in the Outreach and Advocacy Office of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs.

**II. Guest Speaker..... Roslyn Jones
Women Veterans/Inclusion Program Manager, Outreach & Advocacy Program
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs**

The Department of Veterans Affairs has recently established a new program addressing the needs of women and minority veterans living in our state. Its primary mission is to ensure that veterans and their family members are aware of and have access to the benefits they earned through their service. The program will also work to raise awareness of those who have influence and can make changes as the issues affecting these veterans become known. This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, signed into law in 1948. Before then, women could not participate in the U.S. military, although there are some known instances of their having done so despite the prohibition. On July 12, 2021, Governor Hogan proclaimed that day as Women Veterans Day in Maryland and announced the establishment of this new program. We are now better positioned to serve women veterans.

There are 385,000 veterans living in the state, and 55,000 of them are women. Women are the fastest growing population in the armed services. It is anticipated that by 2024, women will represent 12% of the veteran population.

The current goals of this new program include:

- Increase the visibility of women, minority, and other underserved veterans
- Establish a Women Veteran’s Advisory Board
- Hold a virtual Women Veterans Launch event on November 4, 2021
- Hold annual Women Veterans’ Conference
- Develop a Women Veterans’ Newsletter

Commissioner P. Lambert encouraged the nomination of women veterans for the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame.

Ms. Jones said that she is looking forward to working together with the MCW as she develops this new program.

III. Executive Committee Report.....Yun Jung Yang, Chair

A. Commissioner Resignation

Commissioner Bonnie Luna has submitted her resignation for personal reasons, effective immediately. Her contributions to the work of the MCW will be missed. There are now two vacant positions on the Commission.

B. Wicomico County CFW

The County Council of Wicomico County has passed a resolution reactivating the Wicomico County Commission for Women. We will reach out to the new commission as soon as its members are appointed. Commissioner P. Lambert moved that the MCW write to the Wicomico County Council and Executive commending them on the reactivation of their CFW, and that the MCW consider reaching out to other counties in the state where there is no CFW to encourage their establishment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wilson moved that the MCW write to the Baltimore City Mayor asking that the Baltimore City CFW be reactivated. Commissioner P. Lambert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

C. Liaison for Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group

Commissioner Langrell has represented the MCW on this board for the past year but can no longer provide this liaison. Commissioner Pena Dias volunteered to take on this responsibility.

D. Liaison for Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission (Maryland 250 Commission)

The Governor established a new commission that will serve for six years planning the celebration of the state's 250th (semiquincentennial) anniversary. The MD250 Commission includes the MCW Chair or her designee. Chair Yang asked for volunteers from among the more recently appointed commissioners, who might be able to serve in this capacity for six years. Commissioner Emmel volunteered to serve as the MCW's liaison to the new Commission.

IV. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was brought before the Commission.

V. New Business

No new business was brought before the Commission.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Achievement and Recognition (ARC) Committee.....Pardo

The first meeting of the ARC Committee was held October 13. It was decided to plan the 2022 Hall of Fame induction and Young Women Leaders Award presentation virtually again using the same successful format as last year. The call for nominations for both the 2022 Hall of Fame and the Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards was issued on October 20. Nominations will close November 22. The Committee is also discussing the development of a procedures manual to formalize the process of soliciting nominations and selecting honorees for future years.

B. Policy and Legislation (PAL) Committee.....Halford

The PAL Committee has scheduled its first meeting for November 16 at 11 a.m., following the MLAW Fall Conference on November 13.

1. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW).....Langrell

The annual fall conference will be held virtually again this year, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dr. Lena Wen will be one of the featured speakers, and Commissioner Langrell will moderate a panel discussion. Commissioners are encouraged to attend and should let the MCW Executive Director know if they plan to participate so she can register them. The MCW has also extended an invitation to the county CFWs in the state to each send two representatives to the conference as guests of the MCW.

2. Women's Legislative Briefing (WLB).....McChriston

The 2022 WLB planning committee has met twice to begin work on next year's virtual conference. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will make sure that Commissioner McChriston is receiving the correspondence regarding the planning committee.

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

Commissioner Wilson thanked and congratulated all the commissioners who helped with outreach for the survey. The survey closed October 15 with 4845 questionnaires submitted. Special congratulations to Commissioners Ruddell, Halford and Somerville whose hard work and active outreach resulted in high numbers of responses from their counties. She also thanked Commissioner Langrell who personally purchased ads for the survey published by the five county Chambers of Commerce in the mid-shore region. We had wonderful collaboration with the county CFWs, especially those in Charles, St. Mary’s Calvert, Montgomery, Garrett, and Anne Arundel Counties. The questionnaire was made available in five languages which resulted in:

- 4721 questionnaires submitted in English
- 100 questionnaires submitted in Chinese
- 17 questionnaires submitted in Spanish
- 4 questionnaires submitted in Korean
- 3 questionnaires submitted in French

These numbers don’t reflect the diversity of the response population as many respondents submitted their questionnaires in English even if it is their second language.

The committee also held six focus groups – the last two were conducted earlier this week. Commissioner Wilson thanked the commissioners who participated as observers, noting that we could not have done this work without the help of all the commissioners, especially the SWiM Committee and the MCW staff. The research consultant is now analyzing the data collected and will develop a report of our findings by the end of the year.

VII. Liaison Reports

A. The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women.....Yang for Shen

The Foundation very generously agreed to provide funds for the MLAW fall conference registration for the representatives of the county CFWs.

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

No report.

D. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group

No report.

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

Commissioner Emmel reached out to the founder of the MWHM. The organization has had significant challenges in the past year and hopes to reopen in March of 2022 at a new location. Commissioner Emmel and Executive Vaughan-Prather will arrange a meeting with the founder at the new site.

F. UMD SAFE Center.....Somerville

Commissioner Somerville met with the president of the Center on September 29 to introduce herself and to discuss ways the MCW can support its work. The women served by this organization have been especially hard hit by the pandemic and are very much in need of additional services. The Center’s focus is on prevention. In addition to adult women who are victims of human trafficking, the Center is concerned about trafficking in undocumented children, homeless women and homeless youth for whom there is a need for shelter where they will not be retraumatized.

VIII. Staff Report..... Vaughan-Prather

A. Elected Women in Maryland Project

In the course of reaching out to various counties in Maryland where there is no CFW to help with outreach for the SWiM survey, the Executive Director found a list of 157 municipal jurisdictions in Maryland and started collecting information on the number of women elected to city and town councils. She contacted many of them with information about the survey and will continue to collect information about the numbers of women in local elected office in the state. Commissioner Lambert suggested that this would be a wonderful project for a student intern and recommended that if any commissioners know of a student who might need a project during the year, they might refer that student to the MCW staff.

B. Staff/Schedules

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

C. Annual Report

The FY 21 Annual Report covering the work of the MCW from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 was published. Hard copies of the report were mailed to each of the Commissioners and a digital version is now posted on the MCW website.

IX. Announcements

A. Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 5:00 p.m.

B. MCW Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021 5:00 p.m.

X. Adjournment

Chair Yang thanked all the commissioners, especially the SWIM and ARC Committee members, for all their hard work and thanked the commissioners for their attendance tonight. No further business being brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: November 12, 2021

By: Judith Vaughan-Prather

Approved: November 18, 2021