

Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 20, 2022

5 p.m.

Video Conference Call

Commissioners Attending:

Yun Jung Yang, Chair
Tawanda A. Bailey, First Vice Chair
Carole Jaar Sepe, Second Vice Chair
Tammy Bresnahan
Deborah L. Cartee
Andrea Bottner
Essita Duncan
Kathryn M. Fiddler
Judith Emmel
Kristi S. Halford
Eugenia B. Henry
Patricia McHugh Lambert
Brenda J. McChriston
Lauren M. Lambert
Maria Menucci
Roberta Pardo

Luanne Ruddell
Corrina Yi-Yuan Kuo Shen
Maxine Griffin Somerville
Evelyne S. Steward
Lanita Walker
Tamara E. Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Gloria Chang
Beth Anne Langrell
Jenny Pena Dias-Hayes

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 5:04 p.m. by Chair Yang.

A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Yang welcomed the commissioners to the first meeting of 2022 and wished everyone a very happy and healthy new year. She called for approval of the agenda for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Wilson moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Ruddell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes of the November 18, 2021 MCW Meeting

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

C. Appointment of New Commissioner

The Governor recently appointed Kathryn Fiddler, of Wicomico County, to the Commission for Women, effective immediately. The Chair welcomed Commissioner Fiddler to the Commission and those in attendance introduced themselves to one another.

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

A. Washington County CFW Briefing

At the invitation of the Chair of the Washington County CFW, MCW Chair Yang and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather presented a briefing about the MCW’s work to that CFW at its virtual meeting on January 12.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Letters to Other Counties Re: CFWs

The Commission sent letters to the County Councils/Boards of Commissioners of the eight counties in our state that do not now have Commissions for Women: Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne, Somerset and Talbot Counties. The Commission also wrote to the Baltimore City Council urging it to appoint commissioners to its Commission for Women, as none have been appointed since 2020 and the terms of all former commissioners have expired. In addition, the MCW wrote to the Wicomico County Executive and Council commending the re-establishment of a CFW there.

IV. New Business

A. Prince George’s County Women’s Legislative Briefing

Commissioner Walker attended a meeting of the Prince George’s County CFW and learned that it is sponsoring a Women’s Legislative Briefing in that county on February 6. She asked that the flier announcing the event be sent to all MCW Commissioners. [Registration](#) is free.

V. Committee Reports

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

The final draft of the report on the impact of the pandemic on the women of Maryland was sent to the commissioners last week for review. Committee Chair Wilson moved approval of the report and the recommendations it makes, with the possibility of some modification of the report’s title. An executive summary will be added to the report, and also published as a stand-alone document. The motion was seconded by Commissioner P. Lambert. MCW Vice Chair Bailey commended the SWiM Committee on a well put-together report. Commissioner P. Lambert, Vice Chair of the SWiM Committee, noted that there is historical value to this report in that years from now it will document the experience of this pandemic, and it is also an active document with real recommendations for action, including some for the MCW itself. Chair Yang called for a vote on the motion to approve the report and its recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Yang thanked Commissioners Wilson and P. Lambert for their leadership and thanked all the SWiM Committee members for their continued work on this important project. Committee Chair Wilson thanked her committee for all their very hard work and she thanked the entire MCW for its support of this project.

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

The PAL Committee submitted a list of seven bills it proposes the MCW support this year in the Maryland General Assembly. That list was sent to the Commissioners for their review in advance of this meeting. Commissioner Wilson moved approval of the proposed list for MCW support, as submitted. Commissioner McChriston seconded the motion which passed with two abstentions (Sepe and Ruddell). Each bill has been assigned to a commissioner who will track the bill’s progress, draft the MCW’s correspondence on that bill, and keep the PAL Committee informed. Chair Yang thanked the PAL Committee, especially its chairs, Commissioners

Halford and Duncan, for their leadership, and the time and thought they have all dedicated to this work. Below is the list of bills the MCW voted to support in this year's session of the Maryland General Assembly:

FILED BILLS

[HB0153/SB0033](#) Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense SUPPORT

Supported last year, will use same letter

Repeal of Marriage as a Defense to Sex Crimes – Love is No Defense: This bill seeks to repeal the law allowing marriage as a defense to sex crimes.

[HB0008/SB00275](#): Time to Care Act SUPPORT IN CONCEPT

MCW Coordinator: Pat Lambert

This legislation would ensure Marylanders no longer have to choose between the job they need and the family they love by establishing a family and medical leave insurance fund to provide partial wage replacement for employees who take leave to care for a new child, a family member with a serious health condition, their own serious medical condition, or a family member's military deployment.

BILLS NOT YET FILED

Abortion Care Access Act of 2022: SUPPORT

MCW Coordinator: Kristi Halford

This legislation will protect and increase access to affordable abortion care in Maryland.

Termination of Pregnancy – Performance and Criminal and Civil Liability (Pregnant Person's Dignity Act): SUPPORT WITH CONDITIONS

MCW Coordinator: Pat Lambert

This bill will prohibit subjecting pregnant people or those who have experienced pregnancy loss or termination to Maryland's criminal justice and/or civil court systems, as well as individuals who assist or provide aid to pregnant people seeking abortion care.

Stalking: SUPPORT

MCW Coordinator: Essita Duncan

This bill will expand the current stalking statute to include electronic communication and tracking devices

Interim and Temporary Protective Order – Virtual Petition and Hearing SUPPORT

MCW Coordinator: Andrea Bottner

This bill proposes to expand access to safety through the courts by enabling petitioners eligible for protective orders who are seeking medical treatment in a hospital or urgent care setting to petition for an interim or temporary protective order from that setting and have the hearing conducting remotely.

Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act: SUPPORT

MCW Coordinator: Jenny Pena Dias

This bill prevents the forced separation of infants born to incarcerated women with pre-release status in Maryland.

1. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW).....Halford for Langrell
MLAW’s virtual briefing on its legislative agenda for this year will be held on February 3, 5 – 7 p.m. [Registration](#) is free.

2. Women’s Legislative Briefing (WLB).....McChriston
The [2022 Women’s Legislative Briefing](#) will be held virtually on January 30. The theme of the conference is “Voting Women Change Everything.” The keynote speaker will be Melanie Campbell, president/CEO, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. Commissioners Bailey, Duncan, Langrell, McChriston, Somerville, Steward, Walker, Wilson and Yang and all indicated that they would like to attend. The staff will be sure that they are registered.

C. Achievement and Recognition (ARC) Committee.....Pardo
The ARC Committee has completed the selection process for the Hall of Fame and the Young Women Leaders Awards. Representatives of state-wide women’s organizations met as the two selection committees, reviewed all the nominations and made the very difficult decisions of whom to honor this year. Members of the ARC Committee have volunteered to serve as the “host” for each honoree to coordinate her presentation on the website being created to recognize them:

2022 Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame:

- **Dorothy Toplitzky Blum** (Deceased), Queens of Code Project, Carroll County – *Emmel*
- **Mary Cleave**, NASA Astronaut, Anne Arundel County – *McChriston*
- **Gloria Richardson** (Deceased), Human Rights, Dorchester County – *Steward*
- **Beatrice Rodgers**, Disability Advocacy/Government, Prince George’s County – *Judy VP*
- **Odessa Shannon** (Deceased), Human Rights, Education, Montgomery County – *Bottner*

2022 Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards:

- **Anna Devoto**, Southern High School, Anne Arundel County – *Bottner*
- **Sara Huelskamp**, Northern Garrett High School, Garrett County – *Cartee*
- **Gabrielle Moore**, St. Charles High School, Charles County – *Somerville*
- **Mirna Obeid**, Clarksburg High School, Montgomery County – *Lambert*
- **Allison Xu**, Walter Johnson High School, Montgomery County – *McChriston*

While nominations were received from all across the state, MCW Vice Chair Bailey noted that more nominations are received from those counties where there is an active CFW. Discussion followed regarding strategies for reaching out to those counties where the MCW does not have as extensive networks.

Work has begun on the website recognizing the achievements of this diverse group of extraordinary women, with a goal of launching the website on March 17. Letters are being sent to elected officials inviting them to send recorded remarks for the website and citations for the honorees. Chair Yang thanked the committee and its leadership for their continuing work.

Chair Yang thanked Commissioner Henry for her foundation’s very generous support for the scholastic awards for the Young Women Leader Award recipients.

VI. Liaison Reports

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

The Foundation is proud to have funded the research for the SWiM project for the past three years and the awards for the Young Women Leaders recipients. The Foundation also extends its thanks Commissioner and Foundation Board Member Henry for so generously agreeing to fund the five \$500 scholastic awards for the Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards for the second year.

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

Throughout the year, pedestrians and motorists who pass by the MWHC headquarters at 333 N. Charles Street can view a rotating window exhibit that showcases the work of Maryland women artists. MCW Chair Yang will attend the Center’s Board of Directors meeting this weekend.

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

There has not been any communication as to whether there will be a conference this year.

D. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group

No report.

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

Currently, the museum is closed and will remain so until the spring.

F. UMD SAFE Center.....Somerville

The Center broadcast a 2.5-hour webinar on human trafficking this morning. Until recently, survivors of human trafficking who wanted to provide help to current victims had to do so pro bono. However, the federal government has now begun to provide funding for these programs.

G. Maryland250 Commission.....Emmel

No report as the Commission has not met since the MCW’s last meeting.

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

A. Office Hours/Staffing

For the most part, the staff continues to work virtually, coming into the office about once per week.

B. Commissioner Reappointments

Those commissioners who are occupy terms what are complete June 30, 2022 are asked to advise the Executive Director whether they request reappointment by the Governor.

VIII. Announcements

A. Commissioners Sepe and Cartee both expressed regret that they have been able to participate in fewer MCW-related meetings and activities recently due to the demands of their work. Chair Yang responded that both have been extraordinarily valuable and active commissioners whose contributions are very much appreciated.

B. Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, February 10, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.

C. MCW Meeting: **Thursday, February 17, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.**

IX. Adjournment

Chair Yang said that she is honored and privileged to work with this group of such extraordinary women. No further business being brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: February 11, 2022

By: Judith Vaughan-Prather

Approved: _____ (Date)