

# Maryland Commission for Women

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2024

5 p.m.

Virtual

### Commissioners Attending:

Tawanda A. Bailey, Chair  
Pier Blake  
Jonathon Carrington  
Essita Duncan  
Judith Emmel  
Kathryn Fiddler  
Maggi Gaines  
Linda Han  
Sarah Klein  
Lauren M. Lambert  
Patricia McHugh Lambert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Christine Lee  
Maxine Griffin Somerville, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Evelyne S. Steward  
LaShaune Stitt  
Lenita Walker  
Tamara Wilson

### Commissioners Absent:

Gloria Dent  
Brenda J. McChriston

### Staff Attending:

Tammy Wise, Management Associate

## I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes..... Chair Bailey

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bailey who welcomed the commissioners in attendance. Once a quorum was established, she called for approval of the agenda and minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting. First Vice Chair Somerville moved to approve the minutes, Second Vice Chair P. Lambert seconded, and it passed unanimously. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert moved approval of the agenda, First Vice Chair Somerville seconded, and it passed unanimously.

## II. Executive Committee Report.....Chair Bailey

### A. Women's Bureau Regional Meeting

The Women's Bureau serves as an advocate for working women and a source of information on issues affecting women in their regional area, comprising Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. MCW's acquaintance with the Bureau dates back to the beginning of the previous year. The Bureau seeks to engage with local commissions to discuss strategies and priorities. They plan to launch in 2024 during their next meeting, introducing a peer-to-peer event and providing commissions with the opportunity to exchange stories, priorities, events, and strategies. Last year, executive officers made efforts to attend as many meetings as possible. These meetings typically occur quarterly, with the next scheduled for February 21st. Chair Bailey will register for the meeting, while First Vice Chair Somerville has already done so. Second Vice Chair P. Lambert will attempt to attend, scheduling permitting.

**B. African American History Month Activities**

For African American History Month, Management Associate Wise sent out a virtual flyer at the beginning of the month to MCW’s distribution list, highlighting all the African American women inducted into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame.

**C. Guest Speaker for Future Meeting**

Commissioner Carrington orchestrated a briefing on the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs by Director Jeremy Browning for MCW’s April 2024 meeting.

**D. 2024 WLB**

Chair Bailey and Commissioner Walker attended the 2024 Women's Legislative Briefing on January 28, with Management Associate Wise who manned MCW’s exhibit table. This was the first time that it was held as an in-person event in the last several years and it was very well attended. It was informative with multiple breakout sessions. This year’s Chair’s meeting had tables set up, each table holding a card which would either say timeline, volunteers, or event with the goal of planning an event, which was next year’s briefing that Montgomery County Commission for Women will be hosting. Each table came up with a topic, a timeline as to when it was going to happen, and the resources needed to have a successful briefing. Overall, the event, the facility, and having it in person was very nice. The hope is more MCW Commissioners may attend this worthy event in future years.

**III. Unfinished Business**

**A. Taglines.....Klein**

To compliment last month’s approved tagline, Commissioner Klein created a logo using the Maryland Commission for Women’s logo, placing the taglines beneath it allowing the use of the tagline under Commissioners’ email signature if desired. The jpegs can be sent out via email to give easy access for all Commissioners to use.

**IV. New Business**

No new business.

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. Advocacy, Collaboration and Engagement (ACE) Committee.....Klein**

The ACE Committee proposed a plan to sustain engagement with and support the development of young women leaders, both those recognized at the annual Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and Maryland Young Women Leaders Award (HOF and MYWLA) ceremony and those who may have been overlooked or unaware of the opportunity. The aim of the proposal was to inspire young women to become advocates for women's issues and explore ways for the Maryland Commission for Women to create meaningful impacts in the lives of Maryland's women. After discussion and questions on the proposal, Commissioner Wilson motioned to table the proposal, seconded by Commissioner Emmel, ending the discussion.

**B. Policy and Legislation (PAL) Committee.....Duncan  
Legislation**

MCW is following and providing written testimony for seven bills. Six were introduced in hearings and have been scheduled in about five out of the seven.

**C. ARC Committee..... Blake  
HOF and MYWLA Ceremony**

The upcoming Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame and Maryland Young Women Leaders awardee event has confirmed the attendance of all honorees, including Nancy Pelosi, Aruna Miller, Adrienne Jones, Susan Lee, and Brooke Lierman. Expenses for the event have received

approval from the Foundation, and Commissioner Blake extends gratitude to the Foundation board. Gloria Dent’s delegate will donate flowers for the honorees. The event's timing has been graciously extended by the First Lady, allowing honorees to deliver speeches. Scheduled from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on March 21st, Commissioner Blake requested Commissioners to arrive by 5:00 p.m. for group photos. She will coordinate with the logistics team to ensure anyone needing a chair outside receives one, though only the committee, VIPs, and honorees will be admitted before the 5:30 p.m. start. Final touches are being made to the event program and program book, pending two quotes from Hall of Fame honorees. Invitations, as last year, will be issued by the Governor's office and are non-transferable, requiring names to match those on state IDs. Commissioner Klein noted that the Foundation Board members have expressed interest in attending and volunteering as needed, offering assistance as hostesses or ushers for the event.

**VI. Liaison Reports**

- A. The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women (TFMCW).....Klein**  
The Foundation's purpose is to raise funds for the Maryland Commission for Women, and there are no restrictions in the legislation preventing joint discussions. Additionally, the Foundation's leadership structure is intended to predominantly comprise Commissioners. The Foundation is actively pursuing the recovery of missing funds allocated to the Commission. Despite past unsuccessful attempts, they remain committed to this endeavor, as the funds were earmarked for MCW initiatives. They are seeking additional Commissioners interested in fundraising efforts. The Foundation has requested invitations to the HOF and MYWLA event and hopes to address attendees. Chair Bailey acknowledged the request and noted time constraints may prevent the Foundation from speaking, although they will be recognized during her greetings. While the event's schedule is still being finalized, Chair Bailey will consider the request and attempt to accommodate it. Commissioner Blake concurred with Chair Bailey, emphasizing that the extended ceremony time is primarily for the esteemed HOF honorees to address attendees during the award presentation segment.
- B. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center..... Chair Bailey**  
The Heritage Center remains proactive in promoting its presence through a variety of events. The forthcoming meeting is scheduled for February 24, with Chair Bailey tasked with providing updates on any recent developments.
- C. Women Moving Forward Conference.....L. Lambert**  
Commissioner L. Lambert has been added to the list serve for the conference and will report any updates.
- D. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group.....Fiddler**  
No report.
- E. UMD Safe Center..... First Vice Chair Somerville**  
No report.
- F. Maryland Semiquincentennial (MD 250) Commission.....Emmel**  
The MD 250 Commission will begin to have monthly meetings with Commissioner Emmel providing updates as appropriate.
- G. National Association of Commissions for Women..... Somerville**  
No report.
- H. Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs.....Carrington**  
Commissioner Carrington met with Jeremy Browning the Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs on February 1. Mr. Browning agreed to brief the MCW at

the meeting on April 18 to share the Commission’s purpose and explore avenues of collaboration with MCW.

**VII. Staff Report .....Bailey**

**A. Transition Plans Executive Director Search**

Chair Bailey expressed gratitude to Commissioners Gaines and Stitt for managing the initial round of interviews. The pool of candidates has been narrowed to three individuals, whose profiles were forwarded to Secretary Lopez’s Chief of Staff and another staff member. On Monday, two of the candidates were interviewed, and they exhibited exceptional qualifications. Regrettably, a third candidate was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. Chair Bailey acknowledges Secretary Lopez’s busy schedule for this and the following week, and efforts are underway to schedule the third interview accordingly. Chair Bailey expressed hope that a decision will be made before mid-March.

**VIII. Announcements**

- A. March Executive Committee Meeting:** Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. Virtual
- B. HOF and MYWLA Ceremony:** Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. In-Person

**IX. Adjournment**

No further business being brought before the Commission, Chair Bailey thanked the Commissioners for all their work. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

**Drafted By:** Tammy Wise, Management Associate

**Submitted:** April 15, 2024

**Approved:** April 18, 2024