

# Maryland Commission for Women

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 10, 2025**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual**

## **Commissioners Attending:**

LaShaune Stitt, Chair  
Patricia Lambert, First Vice Chair  
Christine Lee, Second Vice Chair  
Tazeen Ahmad  
Pier Blake  
Sharon Blugis  
Judy Carbone  
Jonathon Carrington  
Judith Emmel  
Tekisha Everette  
Maggi Gaines  
Linda Han  
Jodi Kelber  
Sarah Ackerstein Klein  
Lauren Lambert  
Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz  
Stacey Rebbert  
Evelyne Steward

## **Commissioners Absent:**

Gloria Dent  
Brenda McChriston  
Nykidra Robinson  
Lenita Walker  
Monica Watkins

## **Staff Attending:**

Ariana Kelly, Executive Director  
Camille Fabiyi, Policy Assistant  
Genesis Franco, Management Associate

- I. Call to Order.....Commissioner LaShaune Stitt, Chair**  
The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Chair Stitt welcomed all Commissioners.
- II. Opening Business**  
The attendance for April minutes and roster was reviewed.  
Approval of Agenda and January minutes
- III. Approval of Agenda & November Minutes**

Commissioner LaShaune Stitt called for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Pat moved approval of the agenda. Commissioner Tazeen Ahmad seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Research, Policy, & Legislation Committee**

- A. Review Women in Elected Office Report - Published Jan 2025  
Updated Report on the status of Women in Office
- B. 90 Day Report on Women's Issues this session - Coming June 2025
- C. February Commission Night in Annapolis
  - 1) Announced by Women's Caucus President Dana Jones
  - 2) Met with lobbyist Robyn Elliott to discuss OTC Collaborative Bill
  - 3) Review Photos - Taken with Commissioners, Dana Jones, and lobbyist Robyn Elliott
- D. Legislative Agenda
  - 1) Brief Video Summary  
*The Video shows some highlights of the 2025 Legislative Session*
  - 2) Commission for Women OTC Collaborative Bill Passed  
*Research implementation of coverage of OTC Birth Control - Bill Signing Details TBD*
  - 3) Abortion Grant Fund Establishment Passed  
*Abortion clinics will get the funding that they need*
  - 4) Part Time Dental Hygienists Bill Passed  
*Allows Part-time Dental Hygienists to apply for loan forgiveness grants*
  - 5) Firefighters & Constitutional Officers  
*Bill to change terminology of MD State Firemen's Association to MD State Firefighters Association*
  - 6) Childcare and Care Economy (FAMIL) Bills  
*Childcare Affordability Bill doesn't have a home  
Other Bills that the WLC supported; passed*
- E. Policy Agenda- Justice Impacted Women
  - 1) History of MCW Work (2004 Report)
  - 2) May Meeting - Justice Impacted Women

#### **V. Outreach and Awards Committee**

- A. March Event at Government House  
Celebration of Young Women Awards and Hall of Fame

#### **VI. Outreach Goals & Accomplishments**

- 1) HS Women's History Month Speech - EMPOWERment Club from Indian Creek School welcomed Commissioner, Judi Emmel to speak to the Upper School student body
- 2) Baltimore City CFW Event - Celebration of Women's History month and the power of women's education
- 3) Young Women Awards Outreach Accomplishments - Latina, Prince George's, and foster youth outreach was a success
- 4) Hall of Fame Inductees - Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Maggie McIntosh, Donna Wolf Mother Abbott, and Kathleen Kennedy Townsend

## **VII. Staff Report**

- A. Communications Report - Growing Newsletter and Socials
- B. Staffing Update
- C. Internship Program- Commission Archive project (From Foundation)

## **VIII. National Political Context Conversation**

- A. Federal Staffing Changes: Director, Office of Family Violence Prevention Services (Administrative Leave), DHS Office on Women's Health, DoL Women's Bureau
- B. Future of Smithsonian Women's History Museum
- C. What can the MCW do to monitor and/or document what is happening on women's rights and representation of women?
- D. MGA established Joint Federal Action Oversight Committee

## **IX. Announcements**

- A. Next Meeting Dates
  - 1) Executive Committee - Thursday, May 1, 2025
  - 2) May Commission Meeting - Thursday May 22, 2025

## **X. Adjournment.....Chair Stitt**

Chair Stitt thanked everyone for attending the meeting today. There being no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m

### ***Respectfully submitted:***

Ariana Kelly, Executive Director  
 Maryland Commission for Women  
 05/23/2025

