

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 7, 2008**

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call

Chair Pro Tempe Limon called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. The meeting was held at the Women's Club in Solvang and was wheel chair accessible. Roll call followed and it was determined that a quorum was present.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

First District: (No Vacancies)

Marybeth Carty
Monique Limon
Brandy Armenta

Second District: (Two Vacancies)

Magdalena Torres

Third District: (One Vacancy)

Janine Blum

Fourth District: (No Vacancies)

Jennifer Dolan
Phil Moore

Fifth District: (One Vacancy)

Staff:

Amber Lloyd, EEO Assistant

Guests:

Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky, Public Citizen
Lloyd Young, Communities in Action for Children at Risk

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Marell Brooks (excused)

Rose Gabaldon (unexcused)

Harriet Tower (excused)
Theresa Fritz Sleight (excused)

B. Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners and Guests

Chair Pro Tempe Limon welcomed everyone present which was followed by a brief introduction by all. Chair Pro Tempe Limon announced that Chair Brooks was unable to attend, and therefore she will be facilitating the meeting today.

C. Public Comment

No public comment.

II.

Regular Business

A. Approve: April 2008 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Carty made the motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Armenta. Commissioners Torres and Dolan abstained. Motion was carried.

B. Announcements:

There were no announcements.

C. Special Guest: Lloyd Young, Communities in Action for Children at Risk

Mr. Young recommended a book written by Beverly J. Lanzetta titled, Radical Wisdom. Mr. Young then introduced himself and stated that he worked as an unpaid volunteer in Brazil with the Sister Families organization for 27 years. Mr. Young realized there is a need for volunteers within the juvenile justice area in Ventura. He stated the best way to get volunteers is to allow time for self reflection. Mr. Young said he would like the CFW to hold a retreat for the women of Santa Barbara. He stated the people that care most are women. This retreat would hopefully inspire women to volunteer in the juvenile justice areas.

Mr. Young had a retreat scheduled for September of 2008 at Cal Lutheran University, but it has been cancelled. He has spoken with the Ventura CFW who have expressed interest in this event as well. Mr. Young thanked the CFW for their time and left the meeting.

Commissioner Dolan recalled the last time Mr. Young presented to the CFW he proposed a very large project that was beyond the scope of the CFW. This project seems more focused. Dr. Rotnofsky stated she believed the event seemed to be beyond the scope of the CFW and that men are willing to volunteer just as any woman. Dr. Rotnofsky stated it would be inappropriate to invite at-risk women and children to a retreat and then ask them to volunteer. Commissioner Dolan stated she thinks Mr. Young is trying to attract women to the retreat that are in a position to volunteer and assist at-risk women and children. Dr. Rotnofsky also stated it was concerning that Mr. Young printed a flyer proposing the retreat on CFW letterhead.

Chair Pro Tempe Limon suggested the CFW wait to see how the Ventura CFW handles this event. Commissioners agreed it was best to table the issue for now.

Action Item: Staff will contact Mr. Young to inquire about his use of CFW letterhead.

D. Accept Oral Report: Chair Pro Tempe – Limon

Chair Pro Tempe Limon had nothing to report.

E. Review, Discuss & Act: Welcome Home Luncheon –All

The CFW shared their impressions of the Welcome Home Luncheon. Commissioner Armenta saw the luncheon on the news. Dr. Rotnofsky stated that the guests of honor and other attendees seemed to appreciate the luncheon. Commissioner Dolan brought Women Veteran of WWII Geri Castle to the luncheon. She thoroughly enjoyed herself. Commissioner Carty stated Congresswoman Lois Capps did a wonderful job speaking.

Chair Pro Tempe Limon stated the decorations looked great. Commissioner Torres stated Barbara Ward did a great job speaking. Commissioner Dolan and her daughters put together lovely gift baskets for the silent auction. Groups such as League of Women Voters, Committee for Measure V, Veterans for Peace, and some of the Board of Supervisors attended the event. This shows that the publicity for the event worked.

Commissioner Carty stated there was no budget for the event, so it is not known how much the event cost to put on or the profit that was made for the Friends. Commissioners would like a report at the June Retreat stating how much was earned, the cost of the retreat, and how veterans are able to now use those funds.

Action Item: Staff will inform Chair Brooks that a budget and use-of-funds report has been requested for the June meeting.

F. Review, Discuss & Act: Cal Safe Letter-All

Commissioner Gabaldon was not present to propose a letter regarding the matter.

Commissioner Armenta motioned to carry the item to next month's agenda. Commissioner Carty seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

G. Review, Discuss & Act: CFW Retreat- All

Commissioners decided the retreat will be held from 9:30am-2pm with a working lunch on Saturday, June 7, 2008. Sister Alicia Martin will allow the CFW to use St. Vincent's facilities. Commissioner Torres stated she spoke with Sr. Martin who will be in touch with Chair Brooks to coordinate the details. Chair Pro Tempe Limon will not be able to attend.

Dr. Rotnofsky stated she will be facilitating the retreat. She stated the retreat should begin with a reassessment from last year's retreat. The general outcome of the retreat is to set goals for the upcoming year. Dr. Rotnofsky suggested that before the retreat one commissioner speak with a professional in the field regarding either violence against women, homeless women, women veterans, and women in prisons/girls in juvenile systems. After speaking with a specialist/professional in the field, each commissioner should be prepared to share findings at the retreat. Also, each commissioner should report on what the CFW has contributed toward each issue. Commissioners agreed.

Action Item: Dr. Rotnofsky will prepare a report to present at the CFW retreat regarding homeless women.

Commissioner Carty will prepare a report to present at the CFW retreat regarding violence against women.

Commissioner Torres will prepare a report to present at the CFW retreat regarding women veterans.

Commissioner Armenta will prepare a report to present at the CFW retreat regarding women in prison/girls in juvenile systems.

Dr. Rotnofsky will email staff a list of materials needed for the retreat (i.e. markers, paper, etc.)

Commissioners will email staff if they would like to address any other items during the retreat.

Commissioners decided it would be best to order food instead of contributing to a potluck because it would allow commissioners to focus on the retreat.

Commissioner Dolan made the motion for catered food for the CFW retreat not to exceed \$319. Commissioner Torres seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

H. Review, Discuss & Act: CFW Chair and Vice Chair Nominations

Chair Pro Tempe Limon stated that nominations for Chair and Vice Chair are now open. Nominations can be submitted today or sent to staff throughout the upcoming month. EEO Staff Lloyd reminded commissioners that the Chair can be from South or North County. The Vice Chair position would need to be from the opposite side of the county to be in compliance with the CFW bylaws. EEO Staff Lloyd also informed commissioners that if they are nominated and not able to serve the term, they may decline the nomination.

Commissioner Blum nominated Marell Brooks for Chair.

Commissioner Torres nominated Marybeth Carty for Vice Chair.

Action Item: Commissioners will submit additional nominations to staff throughout the upcoming month.

I. Review, Discuss & Act: Legislation and Public Policy Updates

1. Violence against Women: Homeless Women in Santa Barbara

Dr. Rotnofsky reported that mental health issues affect women that are homeless. Currently, the county is attempting to cut the mental health budget. If the budget cuts happen, many people including women, may become homeless. Many people at the last Board of Supervisors meeting spoke about their experiences and the majority of those who spoke were women.

2. Women Veterans- Armenta, Dolan, Limon, Torres

Commissioners had nothing further to report.

3. Women in Prison/Girls in Juvenile Systems-Chair Brooks, Blum, Torres, Tower

Chair Pro Tempe Limon stated that if women are not getting help with mental health issues they can potentially end up in prison or the juvenile system. Commissioner Carty stated an upcoming town hall forum will be held which will address such issues. She will send out information regarding the event.

Action Item: Commissioner Carty will distribute information related to the upcoming town hall forum event.

Commissioner Carty stated another community meeting will be held on May 29th to discuss gang issues. These issues will discuss the recent gang treaty between east and west side gangs.

J. Review, Discuss & Act: Committee Updates-All

1. Public Relations-Chair Brooks, Armenta, Limon, Rotnofsky, Torres

Dr. Rotnofsky stated she felt good about putting on the Women Veterans Luncheon. She asked if the event is put on every year. Commissioner Torres stated usually the event is a tea, but they have not been as well-attended as the luncheon. Chair Pro Tempe Limon stated that the luncheon was well focused.

2. Events-Blum, Martin, Rotnofsky, Torres, Tower

Commissioners had nothing further to report.

3. Nominations-Armenta

Dr. Rotnofsky stated she resigned, but reconsidered her resignation. She would like to remain on the commission. EEO Staff Lloyd stated she needs to contact her respective district to discuss how to be reinstated. Once a resignation is submitted, it becomes effective immediately. Chair Pro Tempe Limon stated the CFW has one vacancy in the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th districts.

Action Item: Dr. Rotnofsky will contact the 2nd District to act upon her reinstatement.

K. Meeting with Supervisor-All

Dr. Rotnofsky stated that prior to resigning from the CFW, she met with her supervisor to discuss mental health services and the Women Veterans Luncheon.

Commissioner Carty stated she attended a breakfast hosted by Supervisor Carbajal. There were about 40 attendees who each hold a seat as a commissioner in the First District. Each person was able to discuss what is being done in their respective commissions. Chair Pro Tempe Limon was also at the breakfast.

Commission Blum stated her supervisor's office contacted her and asked if she would like to remain on the CFW as her term would expire in 2008.

L. Other Business- All

Commissioners had nothing further to report.

M. Agenda Items-All

- i. Welcome Home Luncheon Follow-up Report
- ii. Cal Safe Letter

III. Adjourn

Commissioner Dolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Torres seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 7, 2008, at St. Vincent's with the CFW Annual Retreat to follow.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Lloyd