

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
November 5, 2008**

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call

Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 4:40 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)

Monique Limon
Brandy Armenta
Marybeth Carty

Second District: (No Vacancy)

Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky
Carol Fujimura

Third District: (One Vacancy)

Marell Brooks

Fourth District: (No Vacancies)

Jennifer Dolan
Rose Gabaldon

Fifth District:

Theresa Fritz Sleight
Harriet Tower
Lisa Walters

Staff:

Amber Lloyd, EEO Assistant

Guest Speaker:

Ken Williams, Social Services Department, County of Santa Barbara

Guest:

Gina Carbajal – Outreach and Teen Director, Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Magdalena Torres (excused)

Janine Blum (excused)

Phil Moore (unexcused)

B. Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners and Guests

Chair Brooks welcomed everyone present which was followed by a brief introduction by all.

C. Public Comment

Gina Carbajal, Outreach and Teen Director for Girls Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara, informed the Commission of their mentoring program and said that they were looking for women mentors to work with teens and middle school age kids. Their first mentor program meeting will take place next Wednesday at 5.30 PM at their Santa Barbara location. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. Commissioner Walters enquired about North County involvement and collaborating with other groups. Gina said she would like to see that happen in the near future. There is an upcoming conference on February 28th "U Grow Girl" for girls 9-14 years of age. The cost to attend will be \$10.00 per person.

II.

Regular Business

A. Approve: October 1, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Rotnofsky made the motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dolan. Commissioner Tower abstained. Motion was carried.

B. Announcements:

1. Commissioner Rotnofsky attended a panel discussion on "Shattering the Glass Ceiling" which was very educational and informative. Supervisor Wolf was one of the panel members.

Commissioner Fritz Sleight attended the same event and found the discussion very good as the speakers were impressive and occupationally diverse. She liked the background material that was presented but felt that there were no solutions provided towards overcoming economic hardships.

2. Commissioner Fujimura attended the Women's Conference in Long Beach and said it was very inspiring as there were many diverse speakers.

Commissioner Dolan said she enjoyed hearing Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's speech at the conference and felt it was a very timely discussion about being a woman in power. Speaker Laura Ingraham taught a session on women against women in politics which she found very interesting as well.

Commissioner Limon highly recommended that the California Governor's and First Ladies Conference be attended by all the Commissioners.

3. Chair Brooks mentioned that she had planned to attend a gender workshop in Santa Maria offered by Just Communities which was cancelled due to low attendance. It will be re-scheduled sometime in January.
4. Commissioner Gabaldon works for the County Department of Social Services which has had budget cuts and this has resulted in many employees losing their jobs. There will be a candle light vigil at 5.00 PM at City Hall in Santa Maria for the employees who will be losing their jobs.

C. Special Guest: Ken Williams, Department of Social Services

Talk detailed below after the business part of the meeting.

D. Accept Oral Report: Chair Brooks

No report.

E. Review, Discuss & Act: Prepare for Forum –All

A speaker is expected from the Labor Department's division Leader on Loans to speak at the forum. There may be a possible collaboration between AAUW and League of Women Voters. Arrangements are being made to bring the speaker down and Commissioner Dolan has reserved the Santa Maria County room for AAUW on Jan 17, Feb 12 and March 12th. The room is not in use and there are no plans for anything as of yet. It has a security guard and CFW can use the room for the forum.

Commissioners Fritz Sleight, Gabaldon and Rotnofsky will be on the committee to discuss this further. Commissioner Rotnofsky said she can lead a discussion that allows forum attendees to understand how economic issues relate to them and their daily lives.

F. Review, Discuss & Act: Resource Guide Updates-All

EEO Staff will get an estimate on costs of getting the resource guides printed and will present it at the next meeting for CFW approval. Commissioner Rotnofsky is waiting for a response from 211 for further additions to the resource guides.

Action Item: Add Resource Guides to December agenda

G. Review, Discuss & Act: Presentation of Annual Report- All

Four commissioners were able to attend and they felt that the presentation went very well and was well received.

H. Review, Discuss & Act: Focus Group Updates- All

1. Violence against Women and Children: Armenta, Carty, Dolan, Fujimura, Rotnofsky
Staff will add Commissioner Walters to above focus group.
2. Economic Justice and Pay Parity: Brooks, Fritz Sleight, Gabaldon, Limon
Commissioners had nothing to report.
3. Women and Aging: Blum, Moore, Torres, Tower
Commissioners had nothing to report.
Commissioner Rotnofsky will bring in flyer next month regarding women and aging.

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

1. Legislation- Armenta, Dolan, Fujimura, Gabaldon, Moore, Torres
Proposition four was defeated.
Commissioner Walters will be added to this committee.
2. Public Relations-Blum, Carty, Dolan, Limon, Moore, Rotnofsky
Commissioners had nothing to report.
3. Events-Blum, Carty, Gabaldon, Torres, Rotnofsky

Commissioner Carty mentioned that a date needs to be set for the upcoming forum.

4. Nominations-Armenta, Brooks, Fritz Sleight, Tower
CFW possibly may have a new 3rd. District Commissioner.
5. By-Laws-Brooks, Fritz Sleight, Fujimura, Limon, Tower
Commissioner Tower sent out some information to the committee – looks like they are doing what the by-laws say we should be doing.

(C) Ken Williams – Guest Speaker from Social Services

Mr. Williams handed out copies of articles that he has written and submitted to the newspapers to highlight the homeless situation in Santa Barbara.

Mr. Williams stated that violence against homeless people is “hidden”.

A homeless man was beaten to death in Santa Barbara in June 2008 and more recently another burned. Mr. Williams stated that the police don't pursue these cases. If they don't make an arrest within 72 hours it is placed on the back burner. Mr. Williams stated that violence against homeless are hate crimes.

Mr. Williams mentioned that when he first started working for Social Services there were no women on the streets. Now transition houses and Casa Esperanza turn people away because they are full. With the current economic status, homelessness is expected to increase next year.

Hunger is also a major problem for the homeless. Regardless if they in a shelter or not, there is only one soup kitchen that serves lunch for all the homeless.

One third of the homeless population are women. This number has been pretty stable over the last ten years.

Mr. Williams stated most women who are on the streets for a long period of time end up with mental health issues as well as alcohol and drugs issues. Also, he said that most of the women he has worked with on the streets end up being beaten. Many of the homeless have a dual diagnosis of mental health and substance abuse.

According to Mr. Williams, about 200 – 230 show up each day at the soup kitchen for lunch. He said two third of the homeless end up staying in Santa Barbara for a long period of time, about seven years. He told the CFW of a homeless lady in a wheelchair who was an alcoholic and was kicked in and out of the shelter because of alcohol use. She was beaten on the streets and was finally sent to a detox center in Santa Maria for treatment. Facilities are limited as Casa Esperanza only has 100 beds from April 1st until the end of November. Beginning on December 1st Casa Esperanza opens an extra 100 beds until April 1st. Although there are 100 extra beds, people are still turned away during April-November.

Commissioner Fritz Sleight asked Mr. Williams if there was any information presented to the BOS regarding women being beaten on the streets. Mr. Williams said he writes the articles for the newspapers but is not sure if the BOS reads them. He would like a written policy so that negotiations with the shelters don't have to be verbally made every three to

four years. Shelters agree that they will not turn women away but then they don't keep their part of the bargain and do turn women away when they are full.

County does not have policies on how many people can be accommodated in the shelters. Groups can approach the shelter directors about how women are treated; this can be a way to advocate for homeless women. Casa Esperanza, Rescue Mission, Transition House and the Salvation Army had agreements regarding not turning women away when they were full, even if they had to sleep in the waiting room.

Commissioner Carty mentioned that it would be useful to survey shelters to see what sort of policies they have.

Mr. Williams distributed a flyer for Project Healthy Neighbors. Tuberculosis testing is conducted for the homeless and they receive new clothes, shoes, jackets and other needed items. It was discovered that there were three people with Tuberculosis last year and now there are twelve cases.

Chair Brooks asked Mr. Williams how the CFW could help. Mr. Williams stated that if members of the CFW were to go to the shelters and ask the shelter director what they would do if a woman showed up at night looking for shelter. Mr. Williams stated that this would be advocating for homeless women. Chair Brooks suggested the CFW make it a point to visit local shelters.

Commissioner Fritz Sleight said that the CFW should go through Mr. Williams's chain of command to see what has been done so far.

J. Meeting with Supervisor-All

Commissioner Gabaldon went to Supervisor Gray's house on Halloween as they live in the same area. She discussed the upcoming layoffs in the Social Services department and introduced Supervisor Gray to her god-daughter who will be affected by the layoffs in three weeks. Supervisor Gray was encouraging about the situation.

Commissioner Rotnofsky saw Supervisor Wolf informally at the panel discussion on "Shattering the Glass Ceiling".

K. Other Business- All

No other business was discussed.

N. Agenda Items-All

- i. Guest speaker – Judy Harkins, Women's Economic Ventures. She may come with her colleague
- ii. Resource Guide quotes
- iii. Set up agenda for upcoming forum

III. Adjourn

Commissioner Rotnofsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Carty seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on December 3, 2008 at the Women's Club of Solvang.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Lloyd