



**Baltimore County Commission for Women
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2017**

Present: Bella Owens, Vonzella Perry, Carmen Christiana, Kelly Carter, Theresa Barrett, Kimberly Bowen, Sheila Derman, Linda Forsyth, Ruth Howard, Sabrina Jones, Jacqui Lampell, Renee McGuirk-Spence, Frances Smith, Helene Waranch, Nitsa Zdziera, Nancy Surosky, Emily Hunter, Phyllis Hall

Excused Absences: Lynda Stahl, Cecelia Myrick

Unexcused Absences: Jennie Fernandez, Dorothy Foos, Cheryl Brooks

Call to Order: 6:04 p.m. by President Bella Owens.

Minutes: Minutes of November 17, 2016 minutes accepted with revisions.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$8,742.81, \$468.50 Paid, ending balance remaining, \$8,274.31 until June 30, 2017.

President's Report: Bella opened the meeting reminding the commissioners that January is Domestic Violence Awareness month and provided the following handouts:

- The Montgomery County Commission for Women – Women's Legislative Briefing 2017, Sunday, January 29, 2017, Rockville, MD
- Women's Economic Security Agenda Symposium, Monday, February 6, 2017, Annapolis, MD

Committee Reports

Women's Health: Phyllis Hall provided the commissioners with the following handouts:

- Free seminar to learn about the National Diabetes Prevention Program in Baltimore County, various dates
- Free training on how to administer intra-nasal naloxone, various dates
- National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day free HIV Testing at various locations, February 6-9

Public Policy Agenda: Linda Forsyth reported that the January 31st MLAW Agenda meeting was over-sold. She also reported that SB 217 Criminal Law-Sexual Offenses-Physical Resistance was added and assigned to judicial proceedings. HB 1 – MD Healthy Working Family Act status is in the house.

Sheila Derman provided MLAW's Legislative Agenda 2017 picks:

- Rape Survivor Family Protection Act
- Rape and Physical Resistance
- MD Tort Claims Act – Claim Requirement (Sexual Assault in the Workplace)

- Women on Board Bill – Corporate Board Gender Diversity Requirements
- Equal Pay Salary History and Salary Range
- MD Healthy Working Families Act
- Fair Scheduling Act
- Reasonable Accommodations for Pregnant Workers

Women’s Equality/Diversity: Ruth Howard reported that the Equality and Diversity Committee has shifted their direction from a “Tea and Talk” to a more inclusive event in late September, early October focusing on “Successful Women who have been Challenged due to Diversity Dimensions (Culture, Race, Religion, and Sexual Orientation)”. The suggested format would include a panel of five from various backgrounds: government, healthcare, finance, legal, and community service and 75 participants. The panel will be led by a moderator (Ruth Howard). After the panel discussion the group will breakout into several sessions and present the findings from the sessions over a light lunch. The Committee would like to use this event as a pilot for a future 2017 Conference.

Woman of the Year 2017: Due to a conflict in the County Executive’s schedule the original event date was changed from March 9th to March 28th. Renee reported that the nominations were reviewed by the Nominating Committee just prior to the regular meeting and winners chosen. The winners will be notified next week. The commission will review future selection criteria to make the categories more equal.

Domestic Violence: Nitsa had no report.

Human Trafficking: Frances was happy to report that Goucher will hold a panel in the spring on Human Trafficking and is looking to the commission for speaker recommendations.

Task Force – Nancy reported that the Task Force would be best served under a county department. The task force group identified the Health Department as the best fit and met with Dr. Branch from the health department. The group will meet again soon with Dr. Branch, along with pertinent members from his staff, to discuss an outline and initial steps with goal being “education and awareness”. Task Force reps would include people from both the public and private sectors.

GUEST PRESENTATION: Scott Shellenberger, Baltimore County State’s Attorney
State’s Attorney Shellenberger provided the commissioners with its 2017 Anti-Drug Poster calendar and spoke to the commissioners about current human trafficking issues and developments in Baltimore County.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 p.m.