



MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

CA Commission on the Status of Women and Girls Meeting

Wednesday, September 19th, 2013

12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Liberty Hill Foundation, Los Angeles, CA

Geena Davis, Chair

Open Session, 12:12 P.M.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Roll Call, Establish Quorum (6/10 required)

Commissioners Present: Davis, Blumenfield

Commissioner Present from Teleconference Location: Alcalá, Jackson, Liu, Lowenthal

Commissioners Joining Meeting in Progress: Evans

Absent Commissioners: Campos, Escutia, Mitchell, Su

III. Approval of Agenda

Action: Motion to Approve the Agenda

Motioned by Commissioner Blumenfield

Seconded by Commissioner Lowenthal

Motion approved

IV. Introduce Staff

Rebecca Blanton, Executive Director, introduced Penni Doud (IT), Marian Johnston (Attorney), and Nicole Kortuem (Office Support) staff. All staff except Rebecca Blanton was located at the Commission offices in Sacramento, CA for the meeting.

V. Old Business

a. Budget

Rebecca Blanton provided an overview of where the Commission stands in relationship to the budget process. Staff has filed Budget Change Proposals (BCPs) with the Department of Finance (DOF) asking for an additional 1.5 PYs for the FY14-15. Staff is in negotiations with DOF staff over the BCPs and with the overall budget for FY14-15. DOF and legislative colleagues are telling staff that there will be no funds forthcoming for FY14-15 and that the Commission is still expected to raise its entire budget for the coming fiscal year.

Staff is working with the Department of General Services to get budget information so that the Commissioners can see a fully realized budget for FY12-13 and a quarterly budget for FY13-14 at the next Commission meeting in November.

Now that the Commission has an office staff member, tracking the budget and bills has been simplified and providing Commissioners with more real-time information about how dollars are being spent will be possible.

DISCUSSION: Commissioners suggested that a letter from Chair Davis be drafted and sent out to lists of potential funders. Additionally, the suggestion was made that this letter should appear on the Commission's website.

Commission staff will draft a letter for Chair Davis for fund raising and post the same letter to the Commission website.

b. Logo Contest

Chair Davis reported the outcome of the student logo contest. The winner, Ms. Amber Jones, from Culver City was recognized at a ceremony on August 28th where Rebecca Blanton presented her with a resolution signed by Women's Caucus Chair Bonnie Lowenthal. In addition, Senator Mitchell's staff presented a certificate of recognition as the winner resided in Commissioner Mitchell's district. Commission staff is in the process of producing a few commemorative items for sale with this logo.

The Commission is moving forward with a rebranding effort using a professional branding and design team in Sacramento. We anticipate having a full rebranding of the Commission by the next meeting.

c. Fund Raising Efforts

Rebecca Blanton provided an update about fund raising efforts. This included a review of the SONY “friend” raiser at SONY studios in Culver City with Chair Davis and Commissioner Mitchell. Chair Davis encouraged each Commissioner to consider hosting a similar event in their district.

Blanton reviewed potential upcoming fund raising events. Commissioners will be kept abreast of these issues through Blanton’s bi-weekly emails to them.

d. Commission Projects Update

Rebecca Blanton provided an overview of working Commission projects. These included the launch of the third iteration of the California Women Veterans Survey, conducted in alliance with the California Research Bureau and the California Department of Veterans Affairs; the Reach for the Stars project; and Story Booth project.

The Women Veterans Survey launched the day before in Los Angeles, CA. This survey is the largest statewide effort to gather information about women veterans. The survey has been used in California to benchmark CalVet’s performance for women veterans and used to create legislation to better the lives of women veterans and their families.

The Reach for the Stars project secured donated studio space in both Los Angeles and San Francisco, CA. The project team is working to schedule the participants for filming.

The Story Booth project is still looking for funding.

VI. Minutes

It was noted that the Commissioners failed to approve the Minutes of the June 19th meeting.

Action: Motion to approve the minutes of the June 19th meeting

Motioned: Commissioner Lowenthal

Seconded: Commissioner Alcalá

Motion approved

VII. New Business

a. Election of 1st Vice Chair for the Commission

Attorney Marian Johnston clarified the roll of the 1st Vice Chair. After some discussion, Commissioners decided to elevate Commissioner Alcalá from second Vice Chair to first Vice Chair and table the discussion of electing the second Vice Chair to the next meeting.

Action: Commissioner Alcalá was nominated for first Vice Chair

Motioned by: Commissioner Blumenfeld

Seconded by: Commissioner Lowenthal

Motion approved

b. New Website

Staff member Penni Doud gave a short presentation discussing some of the new features and highlights incorporated into the new website. The web address remains the same at www.women.ca.gov.

c. California Women Veteran Survey

Rebecca Blanton briefly reviewed the history and Commission's roll in the development of this survey. The survey has gained national attention by the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, and the State of Texas. Commission staff also received an email saying that Joining Forces and the First Lady of the United States were aware of the work that had been produced from the survey and are interested in the findings.

d. Department of Labor Trip

Rebecca Blanton attended a meeting at the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. with Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, representatives from the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs and other major groups invested in veteran's issues. She had been invited back to speak by the DOL's Women's Bureau about the Commission's survey and to promote the survey as a model for the rest of the nation.

e. Strategic Plan Discussion and Adoption

The Strategic Plan subcommittee met on several occasions to rewrite the Commission's mission statement and develop a "Purposes and Beliefs" statement. The draft mission statement and draft Purposes and Beliefs statement were presented to Commissioners for review and adoption.

DISCUSSION: There was a discussion about dropping "culturally" before "inclusive manner" in the mission statement. Some Commissioners felt the need to highlight the Commission's work to be culturally inclusive while others felt that adding "culturally" to "inclusive" actually limited the inclusiveness of the statement.

Commissioners were concerned that some areas of work for the Commission were not appropriately highlighted. Specifically, there was concern that by not calling out the work to assure access to reproductive health care the statements were incomplete. Additionally, Commissioners suggested anti-bullying efforts be included in the mission statement.

DISCUSSION: There was a discussion about the need for a short mission statement that was very general followed by a more elaborate statement that spells out the Commission's priorities.

Commissioners asked the subcommittee to go back to work with this discussion in mind and provide a more fleshed out mission statement and "policy and beliefs" statement at the next Commission meeting.

Additionally, Commissioner Evans stepped off the subcommittee for Strategic Planning and was replaced by Commissioner Jackson.

VIII. Support of the Women's Policy Summit

The Women's Policy Summit, an annual policy conference in Sacramento, CA, embraces many of the goals of the Commission. Commissioners were asked if they would be willing to commit \$5,000 as a donation to this event to support its efforts.

Kate Karpilow, the organizer of the Summit, spoke about the Summit's work and goals and what the \$5,000 donation would be used to accomplish.

Action: Motion to donate \$5,000 to the Women's Policy Summit and to become a formal sponsor of this event

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Motion: Commissioner Lowenthal

Second: Commissioner Liu

Motion Carried

Staff will work with Summit staff to ensure the \$5,000 is delivered and the co-sponsorship requirements are met.

IX. Public Comment

Women from BTL Health made brief comments in support of the Commission's work and suggested that they would like to partner with the Commission on future efforts.

X. Adjournment

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 2:10 P.M.