

**North Carolina Council for Women  
Quarterly Meeting  
Public School Forum  
March 4, 2011**

Location: 3739 National Drive, Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27612

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Attendees:** *Meena Ahuja, Beth Briggs, Robin Coates, Kate Deiter-Maradei, Ann Gerhardt, Valerie Johnson, Meenal Khajuria, Dr. Julie Lapham, Karen LeVert, Jane Martin, Muriel Offerman, Mary Peterson ( Chair), Melissa Reed, Robin Robinson, Jenny Ward and Amber Koonce*

**Absent Members:** *Minnie Forte-Brown, Lisa Pizziro, Dr. Barbara E. Riley, and Laura Wallace*

**NC CFW Staff:** *Executive Director Jill Dinwiddie, Jacqueline Jordan and Tanya McGuire*

**Guests:** *Deputy Secretary June Michaux, Karen McKnight, Amber Woodby, Louisa Warren and Christy Agner*

**I. Welcome/Introductions – Mary Peterson, Chair**

- Chairperson Mary Peterson welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledged two new board members (Karen LeVert and Robin Robinson) and requested that those present introduce themselves and indicate their affiliation.
- She then read a short, inspirational article.

**II. Approval of Minutes- Mary Peterson, Chair**

- Dr. Julie Lapham had a question and concern about the November minutes. “Didn’t we discuss more in our sub-groups?”
  - E.D. Jill Dinwiddie apologized for the information being left out, which was due to changes in staff.
  - The decision was made to go forward, break into groups and incorporate some of the discussion in the next set of notes.
- Minutes were accepted as written by Dr. Julie Lapham and seconded by Muriel Offerman.

**III. Executive Director’s Report- Executive Director Jill Dinwiddie**

- The office had Open House on Tuesday, 3/1/11, in conjunction with Women’s Advocacy Day. This was an effort to show people coming from around the state, where the Council for Women lives. People came through off and on all afternoon and refreshments were served.
- Ms. Dinwiddie asked to hear from those that attended Women’s Advocacy Day.
  - Melissa Reed reported that Lilly Ledbetter, the Equal Pay Activist did a really good job. They had protestors for the first time (men & anti pro-choice). It was good for women leaders especially those in the Legislature, to hear what is important to the women in their area.
  - Ann Gerhardt mentioned that there was also an Advocacy Day for Non-Profits due to House Bill 100. She is concerned about our funding and the possibility of

the Earned Income Tax Credit being removed- how it will affect the working poor. It may seem like a small amount, but it's a large amount and will affect the self sufficiency of women. She plans on spotlighting this in her organizations newsletter.

- Ms. Dinwiddie reported that Mary Peterson brought with her to the Open House one of the original CFW board members, 96 year old, Ms. Tibbie Roberts who was appointed to the Council by Governor Hunt. She is still an advocate for women, which is why she was in Raleigh Tuesday.
- The Council is busy planning Women's History Month- more on that later.
- Streamline the grants process, continues to be a priority.
  - Grants Administrators are currently performing grant application trainings face to face, video conferencing and webinars.
  - Grant applications this cycle will be emailed no more paper, with the exception of the signature pages. A big step forward.
- The DH manual is finally up and out. Thank you to everyone who helped out. The hope is that programs will download and use it.
- Updates on the website are ongoing. Make sure you check it out.
- A WRAL 30 minute TV show is currently in the works. It will be taped on March 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be three different segments focusing on CFW, DV and Abuser treatment efforts. Region Director Kathleen Balogh, who heads up the Abuser Treatment Program, will be coming to participate in the third segment of that. It is still in the process of being put together.
- On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Council will be hosting 24 young emerging women leaders from all over Latin America. They will be coming to learn about what NC is doing to empower women.
- Planning meetings for the Governor's Conference for Women are already in progress. It will be in Charlotte this year. It will incorporate an education theme and will try to attract young women.

#### **IV. Displaced Homemaker Grant Discussion/Process- *Jacqueline Jordan, NC CFW***

- Ms. Jordan presented a power point presentation with details concerning the grant application and grant review process for FY 11-12. The presentation will be emailed to all CFW Board members.
- There are six review teams with three members each. Before the 6/10/11 meeting, each team is asked to meet separately, but for those that cannot meet we suggest a conference call to discuss the applicants before 6/10/11 in order to have some sort of consensus among the team.
- Reviewers will be meeting back at the Public School Forum on Friday 6/10/11 at 9 am and the board meeting will follow lunch.
- Questions & comments during this session:
  - Robin Coates- Could we ask programs to resend unused money to us around the 13<sup>th</sup> month of their contract so it can be redistributed to other programs?
  - Jacqueline Jordan- we are constantly monitoring and alerting programs at a certain point that they have a limited amount of time to spend the remainder of their money. Some programs choose to forfeit the last quarter of funds and those funds do get redistributed to the other programs.

- Comment from Ann Gerhardt- Some programs are really affected by the money coming through so late. They have to fire staff because they cannot afford to pay them and then rehire staff when funds finally come available. Just want to make sure everyone knows how the programs are affected.
- Beth Briggs- Are there capacity building trainings for the programs?
  - Jill Dinwiddie- Yes, the Region staff as well as the Coalitions offer trainings for the programs.
  - Deputy Secretary June Michaux/ Jill Dinwiddie- Sustainability is also constantly talked about in the trainings so the programs don't depend on the money from CFW only.
- Robin Coates- Have we thought about pairing smaller programs with larger programs as a way of mentoring?
  - Jill Dinwiddie- the Region staff does a fair amount of that.
- Jacqueline Jordan- Thank you to everyone for your participation.
- Mary Peterson- Thank you Jackie, this power point and information were very helpful.

**V. The State Budget and Policy Updates- Louisa Warren, NC Justice Center**

- Ms. Warren presented a power point presentation. The presentation will be emailed to all CFW Board members.
- Discussed:
  - Unemployment rates
  - Poverty levels over the years (2007- Present day)
  - Revenue affecting our State Economy
  - State Budget
  - State Spending and the budget shortfall
- Mary Peterson/ Jill Dinwiddie- This is very helpful information that we all can use.

**VI. Legislative Update- Christy Agner, Legislative Liaison**

- Ms. Agner gave handouts that will be emailed to all CFW Board members.
- Discussed:
  - Budget Process and how it can be tracked
  - A Legislative guide for members of NC CFW
  - House Bills 100, 178 and 223
  - It's important for everyone to educate themselves and create a relationship with representatives in their area.
    - The most effective way to communicate with representatives is first through a letter or email and then a phone call.
  - Some requested more info on Bill 178. Jill Dinwiddie mentioned a survey that is going around the state concerning Bill 178; she is going to send that information out to the Board members.

**VII. Committee Work**

- Everyone split up into their groups and the newer members joined groups of their choice. Jill Dinwiddie asked members to talk about what could be accomplished between now and the end of the year; what do they see going forward; set up some goals for the upcoming year, two or three initiatives they can focus on; what additional resources are needed to accomplish some of these things and who is going to do what before we get together on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Groups consist of the following members:

- Advocacy and Empowerment
  - Jenny Ward: Melissa Reed, Robin Coates, Barbara Riley, Julie Lapham, Jane Martin, Robin Robinson, Karen LeVert and Amber Woodby, the Council intern from UNC-CH joined in as well.
- Self Sufficiency
  - Ann Gerhardt: Meena Ahuja, Kate Deiter-Maradei, Lisa Piñero, Minnie Forte- Brown, and Amber Koonce
- Health and Well Being
  - Valerie Johnson: Mary Peterson, Meenal Khajuria, Muriel Offerman, Beth Briggs and Laura Wallace

**VIII. Committee Report out**

- Health and Well Being- Valerie Johnson
  - We want to urge everyone to become a “Two Minute Activist”. Asking each member to contact their representatives. We ask that everyone do a little summary report of all progress. We are asking for 100% participation.
    - Meenal Khajuria will give talking points on the “Earned Income Tax Credit” Bill
    - Idea to aid in “Two Minute Activist” participation- Have a letter writing party to raise awareness and get women of all ages talking.
  - Beth Briggs will help get information to the Women’s Funds.
  - Valerie Johnson will talk to Alma Adams about supporting House Bill 223.
  - We want to communicate appreciation to the Governor in some form or fashion- for all she has done on behalf of women just to say Thank you.
  - We want to speak out loud and support Mental Health and Resources for Mental Health as well as Healthcare for women and children.
- Advocacy and Empowerment- Jenny Ward
  - Discussed how we advocate using a grass roots approach. The need to focus on WHAT we advocate. How do we, CFW, offer a “White paper” on what we advocate?
    - Would like to update the report on the status of women, earning, and domestic violence- would like to update that.
    - Would like to author and publish something, giving us a platform. We are looking at current studies to assist with that effort.
  - Amber Woodby will give more information on what we can get from Universities.
  - Question: Is there an idea of a timeline?
    - Answer: At least a year, because we don’t know all that exists.
  - Drafting an RFP Letter to get assistance on what we want to do. We desire to get a foundation or university backing us- the bigger the better.
    - Comment- A good resource is UNC- Chapel Hill.
  - Valerie Johnson- Proceed in a really thoughtful way because most professors have tunnel vision. Include folks from various sectors- RFPs may not reach everyone in smaller or more rural areas.
    - Comment-RFP application takes a while- maybe an executive summary could come out of this.
  - Muriel Offerman- ESC has a labor market resource that may be useful.
  - Jill Dinwiddie- NC CFW office has a copy of the most recent “Status on Women”, that might be helpful also.

- Self Sufficiency- Ann Gerhardt
  - We want to offer small business trainings for DH clients.
    - Meena Ahuja will get with Mary Williams Stover to set up a web training.
    - Kate Deiter-Maradei informed everyone that Wachovia gives money to small businesses (non profits) that would be a good resource for programs to tap in to.
  - We discussed having a type of legislative reception, advocating for things that deal with women and reaching out to the Republican side through the Chamber of Commerce. Would like to get some press coverage for this event.
  - FMLA advocacy issue made them think of change.
  - Amber Koonce will be following up on the Benefit Bank- which provides work support and assistance and can be used by an individual- this will be useful to women and DH clients.
  - Robin Coates made a suggestion about micro financing trainings.
    - Meena Ahuja will share information about organizations that offer trainings on micro financing.

**IX. Women's History Month- Executive Director Jill Dinwiddie**

- Ms. Dinwiddie called attention to the NC CFW brochures. Acknowledged that the financing for the brochures was donated by Lisa Piñero.
- Ms. Dinwiddie also displayed the posters for the Women's History Month event, which will take place on March 30, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the NC History Museum.
  - Event is geared toward young women and girls.
  - Honor Guard is a Girl Scout group from Durham, Troop 49.
- A request for donations was made. Make checks payable to Department of Administration.
- A request was also made for someone to put up a poster at the School of Science and Math- Karen LeVert is a Board member there and will pass along the electronic flyer when it is made available.

**X. Public Awareness Campaign- Jenny Ward**

- Due to time constraints, the power point presentation was postponed and a conference call session will be set up at a later date.

**XI. Announcements**

- 3/14/11- Visitors from Latin America to visit NC CFW Raleigh office.
- 3/19/11- There will be an unveiling of a mile marker for Dr. Martha Cooper.
- 3/26/11- Wake County Mission for Women will be meeting and gathering data on the needs of women and girls.
- 4/9/11- Conference on Human Trafficking is being held at Bennett College campus.
- 4/15/11- DH grant applications due via email, no later than 5 pm.
- 6/10/11- The next CFW Board meeting, including the grant review session.  
\*\*\*We will start at 9 am instead of 10 am. \*\*\*
- 6/11/11- United Nations Woman Conference, NC State. Call Beth Briggs or Jill Dinwiddie for more information.

**XII. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.**

