

North Carolina Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission

North Carolina Council for Women Quarterly Meeting June 23, 2010

Location: 313 Chapanoke Road, Suite 140
Raleigh, NC 27603

Time: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Attendees: Ms. Mary Peterson (Chair), Ms. Sylvia Ray, Ms. Becky Long, Ms. Melissa Reed, Dr. Julie Lapham, Ms. Meenal Khajuria, Ms. Sonya Reid, Dr. Betty McGrath, Ms. Robin Coates, Ms. Jennifer Ward, Ms. Bobbie Deese, Ms. Muriel Offerman, The Honorable Minnie Forte-Brown, Dr. Barbara Riley

NC CFW/DVC Staff: Executive Director Jill Dinwiddie, Ms. Jackie Jordan, Mr. Todd Moore, Ms. Tanya McGuire, Ms. Cindy Olsen, Ms. Tara Minter

Guests: Deputy Secretary June Michaux, DOA Legislative Liaison Ms. Christy Agner, Ms. Mary Tribble, Intern Sarah McKone, Ms. Anita Sivakumar – WomenNC, Ms. Dana Jennings – Executive Director ,NC Center for Women in Public Service, Ms. Robin Colbert – NCCASA, Ms. Cynthia O’Neal – Director of External Relations for Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton, Dr. Dan Figgins, WomenNC, Ms. Angella Dunston

I. Call to Order – Mary Peterson, Chair

- Mary Peterson welcomed everyone.

II. Introductions

- Everyone introduced themselves.

III. Deputy Secretary’s Comments – June W. Michaux

- Ms. Michaux welcomed everyone and thanked them for their commitment and service to the Council for Women Board.

IV. Executive Director’s Report – Jill Dinwiddie

- Ms. Dinwiddie gave a status report on the CFW office. Recent staff changes include: Patty Kelley’s retirement; Central Region Director, Diane Castellow’s upcoming retirement on June 30th; new Assistant Director Mary Williams-Stover who will begin on June 26th. Ms. Williams-Stover will replace Robin Colbert, who now works for NCCASA.
- The Dept. of Administration’s Communication office has agreed to assist with promoting the new name – NC Council for Women - and logo, as well as the redesign of website.
- The regional boundaries for the CFW Regional offices have been changed in response to the retirement of the Central Region Director and as a cost saving measure. The remaining five Regional Office Director’s will each have 5-6 additional counties to oversee and support.
- Legislative Updates included HB1788/S1240, HB1852/S1218, and S140. No action was taken on the two House bills. Senate Bill 140 did pass.
- Ms. Dinwiddie met with the Women’s Legislative Caucus and gave a report on the CFW.
- The NC State Capitol Memorial Study Committee Report recommended that new monuments be added to the grounds. Suggestions included: an American Indian memorial, an African American memorial and a women’s memorial. Private funds will be sought to pay for these monuments.
- Ms. Dinwiddie reported her plans going forward are to look for ways to collaborate with other organizations that provide direct services to women and girls or serve as advocates. An example would be the Girl Scouts who have excellent educational materials on leadership, civic engagement, self-esteem and financial literacy.

- A statewide public awareness campaign about Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault would be advantageous for the work of the Council.
- A biographical form was distributed for members to complete so that recommendations can be made to the Governor regarding the categories of people who might contribute to the CFW board work going forward.
- Ms. Dinwiddie reminded board members that the Statement of Economic Interest form needs to be completed and turned in to the Ethics Commission, as well as the requirement for each member to complete an Ethics Commission training session before the end of July.

V. NC Governor's Conference for Women – Mary Tribble

- Ms. Tribble, Chief Executive Officer of the Tribble Creative Group, reported on the history of the Conference for Women that began four years ago, and she updated members on the status of preparations being made for the 2010 Governor's Conference on November 9, 2010, at the Raleigh Convention Center. Attendance at the conference is anticipated to be 1,500 people.
- The conference will be an opportunity for women to come together for a day of education and inspiration – to listen and to talk about issues that are important to women.
- The conference keynote speakers will be Sapphire, author of the novel "Push", from which the movie "Precious" was based. Cheryl Wu Dunn, co-author of the book "Half the Sky" that speaks about the inequities and abuses of women globally. As well, Jean Chatsky, an award-winning Finance Journalist will speak.
- This year's conference will include "Dress for Success" to spotlight what they do and to raise funds for their cause.
- The Women of Raleigh group has donated enough money to pay for scholarships for 25% of this year's qualifying attendees. A team of organizers in Raleigh will work to find women in need that would benefit from the scholarships.
- Magnets to advertise the Governor's Women's Conference were distributed. For more information, go to their website, www.ncwomensconference.com.
- Sylvia Ray, Director of the Center for Economic Empowerment and Development program, pointed out that her program staff will be hosting a table at the conference.
- The question was asked about whether there will be an opportunity to purchase books at the conference? Ms. Tribble stated that there will be a Bookstore where people can purchase books and CFW board members should contact her if they have books that they would like to have available for purchase at the bookstore. "Are You Ready for Outrageous Success?" by Barbara E. Riley, and Delyte D. Frost, and "Healing Rage" by Ruth King were recommended. CFW board members may contact Ms. Tribble at mtribble@tribblecreativegroup.com with any additional book recommendations.

VI. Displaced Homemaker Grant Application Status Report – Jackie Jordan and Todd Moore

- Ms. Jordan reported that the Grant Review Team has completed reviewing all of the DH Grant applications and decided that all 35 programs that applied will be funded. These programs will be divided into Tiers according to their grant application score. The scores ranged from 100 to 52.
- Mr. Moore reported that the DV and SA grants are now on the 12 month fiscal year schedule, with the second year being a renewal and update only. The Grants Administration office is working on closing out the year and reviewing program status updates.

VII. NC Center for Women in Public Service – Dana Jennings

- Ms. Jennings distributed copies of her handout and introduced Cynthia O'Neal, their new General Counsel and Director of External Relations for Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton. Ms. Jennings

reported on the current status of women who have served in state offices, the General Assembly and the Supreme Court. Since 1975, there has been a significant increase in the number women serving in the General Assembly. North Carolina is ranked 18th in terms of states with women who serve in their state legislature. The numbers of women who are Supreme Court Justices and Judges on the Court of Appeals have made great strides. Fifty-one percent of North Carolina's registered voters are women. Forty-one counties in North Carolina have no women serving as County Commissioners. Women of color serving in elected office represent only 2.2%.

- Ms. Jennings pointed out the main reason that women may not pursue running for elected office: is the belief that they will not be as successful at raising money as men are. Research shows that this is not true. Ms. Jennings added that when women run, women win. Women who run for office are typically issue driven and want to get things done.
- Ms. Jennings gave a brief description of what her office does and the services they provide. Ms. Jennings stated that they prepare, advocate and promote women who seek to run for election and/or serve in an appointed office. In addition, they advocate and facilitate system changes in infrastructure, i.e. making the appointment process at the state level more transparent. They have been working on this with the Women's Forum and the NC Council for Women. Ms. Jennings pointed out they also promote the value of having women in office. There are two primary programs that they offer: the Women in Office Institute focuses on how to run a successful political campaign and leadership development. The Women on Board program provides workshops across the state that teach women the principals of serving, how to go online and do research for Boards and Commissions at the County and State levels, how to organize that information and how to translate their professional resume to be more appealing to the appointing authorities.
- Ms. Cynthia O'Neal spoke about her experience with the Women in Office Institute in the Fall of 2009. Ms. O'Neal stated that she wanted to expand her knowledge base of the political process and to have the opportunity to help other women in public office. Ms. O'Neal added that she learned a lot about women in the political process, the electoral landscape and fundraising, as well as how to clarify where she stands on the issues and how to best communicate her message. Ms. O'Neal stated that she came away from this experience empowered and with the belief that she will one day run for office. She has become a member of the board and continues to promote the Institute.
- Discussion centered around the need to recruit and educate young women on the benefits of running for office. Ms. Jill Dinwiddie recommended that we collaborate to design leadership opportunities for younger women to be paired with women legislators for a couple of days to give them firsthand exposure to government. Another might be to promote all girl schools where gender specific classes may be offered. The seventh and eighth grade level would be a good place to start.
- There is a need to involve more men who are sympathetic to women's issues to help push things through, as well as, for men to talk to other men.

VIII. WomenNC – UN Presentation – Courtney Scott & Anita Sivakumar

- Ms. Courtney Scott distributed handouts. Ms. Beth Dehghan, Founder of WomenNC, gave a brief overview of their organization that was started in June 2009. Their objective is to engage the younger generation in the gender equality movement and to help educate them about CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women). This is an Inter-

national Treaty that has been signed by countries around the world. The United States has not signed the treaty.

- Ms. Scott gave a brief slideshow and talked about the WomenNC fellowship program which supported four college students to attend the conference in NYC. Ms. Scott added that her research was on CEDAW and the reasons that the US has not ratified it. Students at the conference reported on their research on breast cancer, domestic violence and their relationship with **Interact**, as well as working with legislators and NC laws that affect women. This research was presented to the United Nations and the United States Commission where they met with Susan Rice, the US Ambassador to the UN. They also met with the US leader of the CEDAW Taskforce. The conference was attended by approximately 8,000 women. Since attending the conference, they have shared what they've learned about other countries with various women's groups in NC.
- The question was asked about the four research studies that were done by the selected college students. Their research reports can be found in power point presentations on the WomenNC website. This information gained through their research may be shared, as long as proper credit is given.

IX. Old Business/New Business

- There was no old business. New business included the Council for Women meeting dates for the rest of 2010. They are scheduled for Friday, Sept. 24 and Friday, Nov. 5 at 10:00 am. The locale will be announced as the meetings get closer. Dr. Julia Lapham announced Women's Equality Day and the special event on August 28th, from 8:30 am – 11:00 am. Ms. Dinwiddie added that the Council for Women will partner with a group in Greensboro to celebrate Women's Equality Day, where she will be one of the speakers. Ms. Dinwiddie is scheduled to speak on August 23rd in Charlotte as part of their Women's Equality Day celebration.
- Sarah McKone, Summer Intern for the Council for Women, gave a brief report on her summer project. Ms. McKone stated that she will be working to create a Displaced Homemaker manual for programs to use. She is in the process of visiting Displaced Homemaker programs around the state. Ms. McKone has observed differences among the programs depending on what type of area they are in. Stories and anecdotes about the variety of assistance that DH programs provide will also be in the manual
- Ms. Sylvia Ray announced that this will be her last Council for Women meeting.

X. Adjournment

- Ms. Sonya Reid made the motion to adjourn and Ms. Jennifer Ward seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.