

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR WOMEN
 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 MAY 14, 2015
 DENR Headquarters
 217 W. Jones Street, 5th Floor Conference Room, Raleigh, NC 27603

Board Members	Guests
Monica Awasthi	Dr. David McLennan
Dena Barnes	Allyson Take
Lida H. Calvert-Hayes	
Kristen Sebastian	
Brenda Formo	
Carla Harper	
Jessica Locklear	Others Present
Laura Norman	Gale McKoy Wilkins
Valerie Procopio	Mary Williams-Stover
Barbara Rawl	Jacqueline Jordan
The Honorable Judge Robin Robinson	Alisa Milliken
Kirby Tyson	Diana Morado
Debbie West	

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs. Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director, North Carolina Council for Women (NCCFW/CFW), called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. She welcomed everyone and introduced herself and identified the CFW staff: Mary Williams-Stover, Assistant Director; Jackie Jordan, Grants Administrator; Alisa Milliken, Temporary Assistant for Grants Administrator; Diana Morado, Administrative Assistant; Maya Sanders, Federal Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Coordinator (*not present*); and Allyson Take, Intern. Ms. Take will attend the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill this fall.

Chairwoman Debbie West also gave a welcome speech and reviewed the mission statement and charged the Board Members to state any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest, that may exist for agenda items being considered by the Board, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. No conflict of interest stated by anyone present.

North Carolina Council for Women – Creation; powers and duties

“There is hereby created the North Carolina Council for Women of the Department of Administration (DOA). The North Carolina Council for Women shall have the following functions and duties:

1. To advise the Governor, the principal State departments, and the State legislature concerning the education and employment of women in the State of North Carolina;
2. To advise the Secretary of Administration upon any matter the Secretary may refer to it;
3. To establish programs for the assistance of Women in Transition as set forth in Part 10B of this Article.

Chairwoman West requested that all members give a small introduction of themselves, then thanked everyone for attending. Present board members, introduced themselves: Robin Robinson District Court Judge, Laura Norman from Greensboro, Kirby Tyson from Fayetteville, Barbara Rawl from Greenville, Lida Hayes Calvert from Winston-Salem, Jessica Locklear from Lumberton, Kristen Sebastian from Raleigh, Monica Awasthi from Raleigh, Brenda Formo from Greensboro, Dena Barnes from Summerfield, and Valerie Procopio from Raleigh.

II. SPECIAL REMARKS

Chairwoman West congratulated Ms. Procopio on her recent college graduation, Ms. Barnes on receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, and Mrs. Sebastian on her wedding.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Kirby Tyson made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Ms. Robin Robinson. Motion carried.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mrs. Wilkins, Executive Director, CFW, presented the report as follows:

STAFF ORGANIZATION:

Executive Director is reorganizing the CFW division and staff. Many new events and projects are coming forward including the Women & Girl’s Initiative, new Human Trafficking Grant and Women’s Empowerment Project with college girls from Duke University, Winston-Salem State University, Davidson College, Salem College, and Saint Augustine College. A Research and Social Media Coordinator will be hired in order to help connect middle school, high school, and college students with the CFW. This new position is imperative for the rebranding of the council.

Ms. Pat Vaughn, previous CFW employee worked directly with Jackie Jordan as the Grants Processing Assistant, has returned to school full-time. A new grants administrator will be hired for the CFW.

CFW has several interns from North Carolina Central University, Peace College, East Carolina University. The Raleigh office has experienced budget cuts in the past, making it imperative for the NC CFW to utilize interns.

FEDERAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT (FVPSA):

Mrs. Wilkins introduced the new FVPSA Coordinator, Maya Sanders, who has a Master Degree in Public Health and Social Work.

CFW will hold a FVPSA grantee conference on June 10-12, 2015 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord, NC. CFW was awarded \$2.4 million. The conference provides training sessions for the 89 agencies receiving funds to improve reporting, and encourage networking.

PROJECT North Carolina Organizing and Responding to the Exploitation and Sexual Trafficking of Children (NO REST):

UNC- Chapel Hill School of Social Work is spearheading Project NO REST to combat human trafficking of child welfare, involving children and youth of NC. CFW staff are partnering with the collaboration. Project NO REST recently received a five (5) year \$1.24 million grant to launch an trafficking awareness project.

NORTH CAROLINA COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

The CFW is working with the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (NCCADV) in order to examine strategies to collect more accurate data on client services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PARTICIPATION:

The Executive Director has been asked to speak at several commencements. Mrs. Wilkins spoke at North Carolina Central University for First-Time Graduates. On June 1, 2015 she spoke at the Governor's Mansion with the First Lady Ann McCrory, at the graduation for the Durham Rescue Mission participants.

PROJECT COPE- HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

A new Human Trafficking Grant, entitled Project COPE will officially start at the CFW, on July 1, 2015. The COPE Project was awarded \$219,000, by the Governor's Crime Commission to increase education and awareness on trafficking. Kiricka Yarbough Smith will coordinate the project as CFW's Human Trafficking specialist. The grant focuses on prevention.

At the previous Human Trafficking event held in the spring with Congressman Walker, CFW convened specialists from around NC to talk about the state of Human Trafficking in NC. CFW received coverage in the media including the News and Observer. Law enforcement were invited to the event to share tactics on how they combat the human trafficking crisis.

During last year's Human Trafficking event, Mrs. Wilkins shared her personal insight, "Perpetrators and traffickers know how to distinguish vulnerability -- this is an upsetting situation. This is why the CFW will focus on helping communities to identify vulnerability. Aspects for middle school and high school girls and how to break the cycle.

NC STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS (SADD):

SADD currently holds 200 chapters in the state and the NC CFW will partner with them instead of re-inventing a similar program. SADD discusses many projects such as underage drinking, sexual activity, and similar prevention projects. Through Project COPE, the CFW hopes to start educating students about Human Trafficking.

Link for NCSADD <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/yaio/ncsadd.aspxBook>

SPEAKING SERIES:

This fall 2015, CFW will launch a new college speaking series on financial literacy to help girls/women avoid poor decision making in regard to financial literacy and encourage STEM careers, and educate on teen dating violence.

WOMEN'S SUMMIT:

Mrs. Wilkins requested that the board members consider March 2016 since it is also Women's History Month as a date for the conference. Board member Million Heir-Williams has agreed to Co-Chair this sub-committee and she will need a chairperson to assist. CFW will partner with the US Women Chamber of Commerce and NC Chamber of Commerce to make this a much more successful event. Potential summit dates were discussed.

Mrs. Wilkins concluded the Executive Report.

BOARD MEMBER ACTION TASKS:

Chairwoman West addressed limited parking availability. Members requested help finding extra parking for the next board meeting.

Chairwoman West suggests that board members review the CFW website list of agencies that receive state funding through CFW and plan to visit. "It is good to see firsthand where the monies are being awarded.

Chairwoman West asked board members to consider women for leadership and in business. Contact your legislator to support House Bill 855 and House Bill 414. Visit the CFW website and select a local grant agency providing domestic violence or sexual assault services and visit the agency.

V. PRESENTATION BY DAVID MCLENNAN ON WOMEN IN NC POLITICS

David McLennan, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin and current visiting professor of Political Science at Meredith College gave a 45 minute PowerPoint presentation that explained women's

roles in NC politics. The presentation included statistics on women's votes, women running for office, and current women elected officials. Dr. McLennan has spent his career in women's colleges because he believes in women leadership. McLennan concluded the presentation by thanking the council for their time.

Below are links to Dr. McLennan's report and presentation:

Link for Meredith College <http://www.meredith.edu/directory/david-mclennan>

Link for YouTube presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2I-aI5XN8Yc>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRa_0t5eG7E

The board discussed Dr. McLennan's research and their experiences in running for public office. Following comments were made:

"Based in my experience women running for office need work on name recognition."

"Financial security, is the key. We need to train up leaders to establish capital, because it takes time and money."

"Women don't tend to support women, like men support men. Women become intimidated with each other."

"It is important to show young girls that it is equally important for them to be leaders, building a support system for candidates."

VI. NCCFW AGENCY COMMITTEE VISITS- *Reports from board members*

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER (WRC):

(Guilford County) Board members Ms. Dena Barnes, Ms. Brenda Formo, and Chairwoman West visited the WRC in Greensboro. WRC is not necessarily for victims of domestic violence nor sexual assault, but for those who have been homemakers. The center gives extra help, like showing them how to dress for professional environments and prepare a resume. WRC was a former site of the Displaced Homemaker Program and lost funding because the legislature re-appropriated the monies to domestic violence focused agencies instead.

Brochures from the Women's Resource Center were distributed.

THE FAMILY SERVICES OF PIEDMONT:

Chairwoman West shared insight of this agency, a huge operation, located in Greensboro, High Point, and Jamestown. They do work with women victims' of domestic violence and sexual assault. The agency also offers a wonderful shelter, and it is in a nice and secure place. They also keep one bed reserved for human trafficking victims.

NC CFW BRANDING:

Board Members did not see any CFW logo at the agencies that they visited.

LOGO FOR COUNCIL FOR WOMEN:

Ms. Jackie Jordan addresses that agencies are encouraged to use the CFW logo on all items since the majority of monies come from the CFW.

AGENCY GUIDELINES:

Ms. Mary Williams-Stover stated that July 1st is the deadline for completing new branding guidelines that will be distributed to all grantees for the new FY 15-16. Agencies will be required to post certificates stating their relationship with CFW and acknowledging CFW logo on their websites.

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Ms. Kirby Tyson reported that there are situations where women do not have legal counsel which is a concern for women who are being trafficked.

DURHAM RESCUE MISSION:

Mrs. Wilkins reported on the Durham Rescue Mission which does a magnificent job and allows women to live in their shelter for up to a year. Women are trained on accountability. Residents learn about handling money and receive lots of assistance. Couples are accepted. "64% of people say if such shelter would be of choice, I would like to go to that shelter." They receive private donations for their funding. CFW is considering ways to partner with them in the future.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION:

New Chair, Charles Campbell.

BOARD OFFICIAL NAME TAGS:

CFW will order official name tags for board members. When available, board members are asked to wear these name tags whenever representing the CFW at public activities.

2014-2015 MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE FEES:

Ms. Jordan reported marriage fees brought in \$1.5 million and divorce fees \$1.8 million. CFW distributes fees to domestic violence agencies across NC in quarterly payments.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

CFW has regional directors that monitor all these agencies. They ensure effective protocol, provide safety plan awareness, financial literacy support education, and ensure that programs meet standards for service delivery.

NEW OFFICE FOR CFW:

The Raleigh office plans to move by the end of next year. A larger space is needed for more staff, one that is large enough to hold meetings and events.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

WOMEN'S BUSINESS SUMMIT:

CFW is currently looking for chair to work with Ms. Million Heir-Williams, who agreed to co-chair.

WOMEN AND GIRL'S INITIATIVE:

Mrs. Kristen Sebastian reported the mission statement: *To embolden and equip women and girls with courage, confidence, and competence to achieve leadership roles in our community. We do this by collaborating, networking, challenging stereotypes, creating supportive environments, and teaching skills to learn and lead.*

This event is planned for August 19, 2015, at the Executive Governor's Mansion.

Approximately, 100 women and girls will be invited. Currently seeking mentors and speakers for presentations on education/health/business. The agenda will include ballroom presentations and physical exercise.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

HOUSE BILL 85 -- Ms. Barnes reported that this bill shall increase divorce filing fees from \$75 to \$125 and distribute additional funds to agencies for education/homemakers in transition.

IX. SUB COMMITTEE BREAK OUT MEETING

Chairwoman West initiated subcommittee breakout sessions from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., pending the adjournment of the board meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next CFW Board meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2015, at the DENR HQ Building, 217 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603.


Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director
Division of Council for Women
(Sign & Date)


Diana Morado, Recording Secretary
(Sign & Date)



**NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR WOMEN BOARD MEETING
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

AGENDA

Thursday, May 14, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

DENR Headquarters
217 W. Jones Street, 5th floor-Conference Room 5001
Raleigh, NC 27603

I	<p>Welcome/Introductions – <i>Debbie West, Board Chair</i></p> <p>The State Government Ethics Act mandates that at the beginning of any meeting the Chair remind all the members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict with respect to matters to come before the board. If any member knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict, please state so at this time.</p>	10:00 – 10:10 a.m.
II	<p>Approval of Minutes – NC CFW Board Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2015</p>	10:10 – 10:15 a.m.
III	<p>Executive Director's Report/Update – <i>Gale McKoy Wilkins, N.C. Council for Women</i></p>	10:15 – 10:30 a.m.
IV	<p><i>Dr. David McLennan</i> (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin) Visiting professor of Political Science at Meredith College -Status of Women in North Carolina Politics</p>	10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
V	<p>Board Member Reports from site visits in their communities of partner agencies of NC CFW</p>	11:00– 11:30 a.m.
VI	<p>Lunch (working lunch)</p>	11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
VII	<p>Sub-Committee Reports and Goals 2015-2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2015 Women's Summit (Women in Business)- <i>Million Heir-Williams, Co-Chairperson</i> - Women & Girls Initiative- <i>Kristen Sebastian, Chairperson</i> - Legislative Committee- <i>Dena Barnes, Chairperson</i> 	12:00 -12:20 p.m.



VIII	Sub-Committee (break out meetings) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2015 Women's Summit (Women in Business)- Women & Girls Initiative- Legislative Committee	12:20 – 1:30 p.m.
X	Reporting of Sub-Committee Goals	1:30 – 2:00 p.m.
XI	Adjourn Meeting	2:00 p.m.

Next NC CFW BOARD MEETING: August 13, 2015

Executive Summary

Following the Council for Women's Legislative Day in February, Council members talked with legislators about the NC Council for Women's mission and accomplishments, as well as a subsequent briefing for Representative Jon Hardister at the Greensboro Women's Resource Center, two bills were filed in support of Council for Women's fiscal year 2015-2016 funding:

- House Bill 855 "Support Family Stabilization" - increases the fee for filing a divorce action from \$75 to \$125 to support and establish the Family Stabilization Fund. The bill also states that the NC Council for Women will administer the fund and adopt rules to implement the fund. The bill passed the first reading on April 15, 2015 and was referred to the Judiciary Committee III the same day (as of May 11, 2015 the bill remains in the Judiciary Committee), and if favorable it will be sent to the Finance Committee. Primary Sponsors include Representatives Fisher (Buncombe), Meyer (Orange), Cunningham (Mecklenburg), and Carney (Mecklenburg).
- House Bill 414 "Greensboro Women's Resource Center/Funds" - appropriates funds in the amount of \$60,000 to the Women's Resource Center of Greensboro for the 2015-2016 fiscal year to assist the non-profit organization in funding programs that help women. The bill passed the first reading on April 1, 2015 and was referred to the Appropriations Committee on the same day. Primary Sponsors are Representatives Hardister and Brockman (both Guilford).

Goals

For all members of the NC Council for Women to:

- Communicate with legislators to influence passage of both bills to support the Council's goals and initiatives.
- Actively visit and talk with legislators to share information about the Council's activities and accomplishments.

Dena Barnes
Chair, Legislative Committee

NC Council for Women: Women & Girls Initiative Subcommittee

Mission Statement to be approved:

The mission of the NC Council for Women Women & Girls Initiative is to develop leaders. Our purpose is to embolden and equip women and girls with courage, confidence, and competence to achieve leadership roles in our community. We do this by collaborating, networking, challenging stereotypes, creating supportive environments and skills for learning and leading.

Branding:

For donated orders of t-shirts, stationery, cards, etc, we will use courage initiative branding (handouts)

Gale has been working hard in meetings, at conferences, expos, and making connections for the women and girls initiative! I was getting married and on my honeymoon most recently, but I'm BACK to work!

Regionally Organized:

We will be talking to a successful nonprofit focused on girls about their regional set-up, because we would like to have a regional set-up of mentors, speakers, and girls.

Events:

We would like to host a Women & Girls Leadership Conference at the Executive Mansion, preferably using the ballroom, porch and south lawn –rotating the girls, mentors, speakers from across the state from presentations inside to porch discussions(Q&A), to physical exercise or strength building on south lawn. We are considering what date would be best – hoping for August 11, 12, 18, or 19, but we need to go through the approval process with the mansion.

Then we will consider smaller regional events across the state.

Connection Building with Leaders & Mentors:

Will be working on a connection with Molly Barker, former Girls on the Run Executive Director and a connection with Girls World Expo contacts. Please let us know who you would like to connect us with from anywhere in the state!

Please contact me with any ideas, questions or additions!

Kristen Sebastian

Chief of Staff, Office of First Lady of N.C. Ann McCrory

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