



**NORTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL FOR WOMEN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2014**

DENR Headquarters
217 W. Jones Street, 5th Floor Conference Room, Raleigh, NC 27610

Commission Members	Guests
Amy Tiemann	Bill Bryan
Debbie West	Rhonda Todd
Dena Barnes	
Karen Popp	
Maggie Bizzell	
Marsha Prestage	Others Present
Monica Awasthi	Gale McKoy Wilkins
Judge Robin Robinson	Elyse Hamilton-Childres
Kirby Tyson	Jackie Jordan
	Tara Minter
	Daphne Pinto
	Pat Vaughn
	Mary Williams-Stover

- I. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Mrs. Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director, North Carolina Council for Women (NC CFW), called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Chairwoman Debbie West welcomed everyone present and acknowledged Ms. Elyse Hamilton-Childres, Director of Southern Piedmont Region, who was attending via phone conference. Ms. West thanked Council members for supporting her. She requested feedback from Council members regarding their ideas and suggestions for impacting women and girls across the state of North Carolina. She suggested that outgoing Board members keep the Council for Women in mind and share their suggestions or concerns with the current Board.

- II. **REVIEW OF COUNCIL MISSION AND PURPOSE:** Chairwoman Debbie West reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Council which include participating fully in the quarterly Board meetings. She announced that October 9, 2014 will be the next Council for Women Board meeting.

- III. **REMARKS FROM BOARD CHAIRPERSON:** Chairwoman Debbie West made note of the breakout sessions indicated on the agenda. She requested Council members to participate in the sub-committees. She expressed that the breakout sessions involved the upcoming events. She noted that this would be an opportunity to promote the Council for Women. She encouraged Council members to network with their legislators. Ms. West noted that reaching out to the legislators during the summer helped the Council for Women remain with the NC Department of Administration (NC DOA). She discussed the process everyone went through to be retained



within the department of NC DOA by contacting Secretary Daughtridge, Deputy Secretary Bill Bryan, and Governor Pat McCrory.

- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the Council meeting held on May 8, 2014, were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Council member Dena Barnes and seconded by Council member Maggie Bizzell. Motion carried.
- V. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mrs. Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director for the Council for Women, presented the division report as follows:

New Board and Commission: Meeting with the Governor's office to discuss the new Council for Women Board and the Domestic Violence Commission members. Mrs. Wilkins noted that by October 2014 twenty new members CFW Board will be selected. She added that it will be a working Board who will be involved with the sub-committees.

NC Association of Women's Commission: Mrs. Gale McKoy Wilkins was asked to be a key speaker at the National Association of Women's Commissions on July 26, 2014. She noted that it was an honor for the Division of the NC Council for Women to present at the event for the first time. The presentation included information on the work and the mission of the NC CFW and the DV Commission, as well as closing the leadership gap by achieving the gender equity on North Carolina's Boards and Commissions.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA): It was noted that the FVPSA federal grants for domestic violence shelter services and prevention services (for children and families) funded by US Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) will be administered by the NC Department of Administration (NC DOA) through the Division of NC Council for Women. The Council for Women is gearing up to administer the \$2.4 million federal grant and ensure a smooth transition. The new federal fiscal year begins October 1, 2014. Mrs. Wilkins provided the breakdown: 70% of the funding will go towards Domestic Violence Shelters; 25% of the funding will go towards programs and 5% will go towards administrative costs.

Grants Administration: Administration of 206 State grants for domestic violence and sexual assault program services is the central focus for the NC CFW during September through November. Once the certified budget is approved, grants administrators and regional team members will engage in processing 206 contract amendments. The elimination of the Displaced Homemaker Program funding was discussed. The funding from the divorce filing fee for the 35 programs across NC was maintained until June 30, 2014.

Robeson County Briefing Report: An update on the Status of Women in Robeson County was discussed. The Robesonian News featured an article on the "Status of Women in Robeson County, NC". The briefing paper event launch was held in Lumberton, NC, on July 23, 2014, at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Ms. Linda Murphy, Eastern Region Director, NC Council for Women, convened the planning committee and helped plan the successful community awareness event. Over 140 people attended the community event to hear results of the report. The panel discussed the issues and current activities. The event increased



awareness about education, economic, and health issues. The panel motivated participants to engage in creating solutions. The evaluations received from over 60 participants were extremely positive. *"The information provided is beneficial and can help to open businesses and receive services for those in need"*. It was noted that the Council for Women staff shared information and resources. They visited the newly build facility Robeson County Committee on Domestic Violence, INC/Southeastern Family Violence Center in Robeson County.

eNough Campaign: Wake County based WRAL TV is currently working with a task force of advocates to tailor a media/public relations campaign to promote awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault. Call to action for the campaign involves contacting the national domestic violence hotline: 1-888-799-SAFE (7233). It was noted that the Council for Women is involved in this campaign and an update will be provided at the next meeting, October 9, 2014.

Women & Girls Initiative: The Women and Girls Initiative is scheduled for October 22, 2014 from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at the DENR HQ Building. The panel consists of a forty member team which includes twenty five women and fifteen girls (middle-high school and college students).

Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Initiative: Mrs. Wilkins indicated Dr. Hope Williams, President of NC Independent College, contacted her about this initiative which deals with financial literacy for young women. The WEE Initiative is a joint partnership with the NC Independent Colleges and Universities. It recommends supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, as well as career and education counseling for young women (especially college students). The initiative targets African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American female students qualified for need-based financial aid. Goal is to engage ten independent and private colleges and universities to participate. The WEE Initiative will contribute \$3,000 per student towards the STEM program. The program consists of three sessions per semester. Fund raising continues to meet the goal of raising \$12,000 in matching funds for the program. This program will help build confidence and courage in young women. It will teach young women self-respect, leadership, STEM careers, and how to engage in community service.

Mrs. Wilkins and Chairwoman West thanked Council member Mrs. Marsha Prestage for her support towards the funding. Mrs. Wilkins also applauded Chairwoman Debbie West for her unconditional support and assistance towards this project.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Council members recommended that younger children should be involved in this program.
- Council member requested clarification on Women and Girls Initiative and Women Economic Empowerment (WEE).
- Mrs. Wilkins noted that the Women and Girls Initiative is the event hosted by the Council for Women on October 22. The WEE program is the joint partnership program with the NC Independent Colleges and Universities that will support the STEM program to help educate young women.
- It was noted that these young women upon graduation will help impact the lives of other young women.



- Mrs. Wilkins extended the invitation to Board members to participate in both events.

Collaboration: It was noted that Mrs. Gale Wilkins and Chairwoman Debbie West will meet with Secretary Wos of DHHS this afternoon, Thursday, August 14 to discuss how CFW can collaborate with Public Health and Mental Health Departments including human trafficking issues.

Introduction of new staff: Elyse Hamilton-Childres, Southern Piedmont Region Director, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, introduced herself to the Board. She shared her qualifications, experience and skills. She noted that due to her experience, she is qualified in dealing with the domestic violence and sexual assault grant programs. She is currently partnering with local agencies to better serve the community by creating innovative methods and resources for grantees, and promoting the best practices to local agencies.

Ms. Childres along with Mrs. Tara Minter, Research Assistant, NC CFW, shared additional information on the Robeson County event. Mrs. Minter noted that the panel addressed issues from teen pregnancy to poverty. She made note that the panel was a diversified group from different cultures. Members from the General Assembly, Chamber of Commerce, and local State officials were present. Mrs. Minter indicated that an update will be provided at a later date. Mrs. Wilkins noted that the CFW partnered with UNC Pembroke University and state government officials for this event.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Council members were pleased with the attendance of the local government agencies present at the event.
- Council members asked if the CFW is partnering with the Indian Affairs Division within the Department of Administration.
- Mrs. Wilkins noted that the Division is collaborating with them through the Governor's office.

OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED:

State Grants: Ms. Jackie Jordan, Grants Administrator shared the following information on the 206 Grantees:

- The CFW completed the sexual assault grant cycle on June 30, 2014.
- Domestic Violence Programs received the marriage license fee and divorce filing fee as additional money.
- The CFW does not have any new grantees, only changes this year.
- The Displaced Homemaker (DH) funds have been eliminated.
- Ten are separate non-profits or community colleges.
- Twenty DH grantees are a part of sexual assault and domestic violence programs.
- The Divorce Filing Fees (DFF) received from the State will be directed to DV grantees for education, counseling, and the same programs previously delivered by Displaced Homemaker Programs.

Chairwoman Debbie West welcomed Deputy Secretary Bill Bryan. The Deputy Secretary Bill Bryan thanked the Council for Women Board members for their services on behalf of the women in the State of North Carolina and expressed his support to the Board. He noted that he



had full confidence in Mrs. Gale McKoy Wilkins and her staff and complimented them on their excellent service.

VI. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Mrs. Rhonda Todd, Liaison for Legislative Affairs and Productivity, NC Department of Administration, provided guidance and recommendations on legislative impact and relationship building. Mrs. Todd discussed the following:

- Informed Board members to create a prioritized list on key issues and concerns they would like to address. She suggested they contact Mrs. Tara Minter who is also an attorney to draft letters in bullet points to the legislators to present at the General Assembly.
- She expressed helpful tips on how to address members of the State Legislators by their correct designations.
- She indicated that Board members reach out to Senator Cook and Senator Woodard who have expressed intentions to help with Women's issues.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Board members asked clarifying questions about what worked well for rallying support for Council for Women.
- Mrs. Todd mentioned it was a united effort by the Board and CFW agencies speaking out to their legislators.
- Chairwoman Debbie West requested members to follow up with their legislators and thank them for their support.
- Mrs. Todd advised members to attend the fund raising events in order to get to know their legislators and build a relationship. She also suggested making an effort to meet and greet the legislators.
- Mrs. Wilkins discussed the "impact statement" that went out this summer regarding "why the Council for Women should remain and its impact on women's key issues".
- Mrs. Todd informed the Board that an effort should be made on "Women's History Day" to set up a booth in front of the Legislative building to hand out flyers on the Council for Women. The flyers should have informing on its impact on women's key issues and list programs and agencies the CFW support.
- Mrs. Todd noted that special events on women's causes like the "Go Red", "Human Trafficking", and the "Women and Girls Initiative" events are another way for people to get to know the NC Council for Women.
- Mrs. Todd suggested the following: (1) Branding the "Displaced Homemaker" with a new name and present this to the General Assembly in hopes of funding reconsideration for the future; (2) Leave voice mail messages on Saturday and Sunday for your legislative representatives so that they will actually listen to your message first thing on Monday; (3) Send letters to your legislator's home address not the office address.
- Mrs. Todd provided the following handouts on (1) The Senate Telephone and Office Assignments; (2) The House Telephone and Office Assignments; (3) Mrs. Todd's business card so members could contact her directly.

Chairwoman Debbie West thanked Ms. Rhonda Todd and the Deputy Secretary Bill Bryan.

Chairwoman West announced a short recess for lunch.



Lunch break, meeting reconvened at 12:10 (working lunch).

Board members discussed the upcoming events and noted that the Women's Summit should focus on business related issues in the State of North Carolina. Council members discussed ideas on "how do we get more women into business?" It was noted that the State of North Carolina has wonderful resources. Members expressed that this event is an opportunity to get leaders in the community to brainstorm ideas to reach out to potential entrepreneurs'.

VII. **WORKING COMMITTEES (BREAK OUT MEETINGS):** The following three sub-committees were formed:

- Women & Girls Initiative
- 2015 Women's Summit (Women in Business)
- Legislative Committee

The sub-committee report from the Committee members and CFW senior staff is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** With there being no further items to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next Council for Women Board meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2014, at the DENR HQ Building.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gale McKoy Wilkins".

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daphne Pinto".

Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary
(Sign & Date)

These minutes were approved by the NC Council for Women Board on October 09, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gale McKoy Wilkins".

Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director
(Sign & Date)

Committee Breakout Meeting Notes

August 14, 2014

Women & Girls Initiative Committee

Committee Members: Maggie Bizzell (chair), Robin Robinson, and Kirby Tyson

CFW Staff Representative: Jackie Jordan

Event: Women & Girls Initiative
 Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2014
 Location: DENR Building, 217 West Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27610
 Time: 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
 Panel: 40 member team due to capacity of reserved area (25 women and 15 girls)

Seeking ideas for identifying needs in the communities across North Carolina that affects young girls and women.

Discussion:

Possible areas of interest:

- Education
- Self Sufficiency
- Financial Literacy
- Job Training
- Confidence = Competence
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

How can CFW Board members provide the framework for this initiative?

How can CFW Board members assist with this initiative?

Potential Participants:

- Middle school girls
- High school girls
- College women/girls
- Law Enforcement Officer (LEO)
- City government
- County government
- Municipal/local government
- Business owners
- Faith-based community
- Substance abuse "counselor"
- Legal/court system-Juvenile Attorney or Judge
- Medical staff member

Suggested possible resources:

I AM a QUEEN FOUNDATION (assists with developing self confidence

Website: www.iamqueen.org

Contact: Alana V. Allen, Founder-Executive Director

Email: iamqueen@gmail.com

2015 Women & Business Summit Committee

Committee Members: Monica Awasthi, Karen Popp, Marsha Prestage
 CFW Staff Representative: Tara Minter

Discussion:

Goal: To plan the 2015 Women and Business Summit

- Creating a track of workshops for women interested in starting a business.
- Open the Summit to men and women.
- Approach Ann Goodnight about the Summit and host the one day event at SAS Institute.
- Bring together leaders to discuss ways to improve the economy through women business.
- Include a financial literacy component to the Summit.
- Address how women who are between paying positions can re-enter the labor force.
- Reach out to universities, women's organizations and invite them to become Summit partners.

Action Steps:

- Assemble a list of women's organizations and share with the committee. (Tara Minter)
- Committee members will send recommended organizations to Tara Minter to include on the list.

Legislative Committee

Committee Members: Dena Barnes, Amy Tiemann, and Debbie West
 CFW Staff Representative: Mary Williams-Stover

Discussion:

A. Goals were to develop priorities for NC CFW's legislative agenda as follows:

- Employment.
- Restoring funding to the former Displaced Homemaker programs.
- Rebrand "Displaced Homemaker" to new name "Women in Transition (WIT)".
- Research needs of program clients in counties where closures occurred.
- Identify Job Links/One Stop Job Centers and Workforce Development Boards are filling the gaps.
- Questions to address: What are the employment initiatives for women, especially in rural areas? Are women being served? By whom? Are there other needs to address?
- Determine recommendations: How much money is needed for WIT and what services are priorities? Use this information to develop draft legislation.
- Research legislative agendas of other prospective partners including: Community colleges, Sheriff's Association, Department of Commerce.

B. Education:

- Examine one year waiting requirement for divorces in N.C. and its harmful impact on women.
- Examine changing the law. Identify legal issues and resources available.
- Financial Literacy/Legal Literacy and Access to Services
- Community Colleges, Legal Aid, Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking.

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR WOMEN

Board Member Roles and Responsibilities

(adhere to the mission of the Advisory Council as established by G.S.143B)

Chairperson: Debbie West

Executive Director: Gale McKoy Wilkins

Key Roles:

- Participate fully in quarterly board meetings. Members may not miss more than 1 meeting annually without jeopardizing their current status on the Advisory Council.
- Identify and participate on a committee or special event program to help advocate for issues that impact the lives of women and their families in NC. Help generate resources, financial, volunteer and in-kind support as needed to ensure successful programming by the N.C. Council for Women.
- Promote the Council for Women and build awareness of the resources available via the organization website, regional and Raleigh based staff. Support strategic outreach and engagement.
- Engage decision makers, legislators and committee members as needed to provide education and information on issues that impact the lives of women and their families. Serve as the voice and ears for women across N.C. to ensure the Governor and key members of the general assembly know what matters to improve the lives of women.

Responsibilities:

Actively participate and educate yourself and provide input to members on key issues impacting women in N.C.

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

AGENDA

Thursday, August 14, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

DENR Headquarters
217 W. Jones Street, 5th Floor Conference Room
Raleigh, NC 27610

I	Welcome/Introductions – Debbie West, Board Chair	10:00 a.m.
II	Review of Council Mission and Purpose – Debbie West	10:10 a.m.
III	Remarks from Board Chairperson – Debbie West	10:20 a.m.
IV	Approval of Minutes – CFW Board Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2014	10:30 a.m.
V	Executive Director's Report/ Update – Gale McKoy Wilkins, N.C. Council for Women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robeson County Report - NC Association of Women's Commission - eNough Campaign - Introduction of Staff (via Conference Call) – Southern Piedmont Regional Director - Women & Girls Initiative 	10:35 a.m.
VI	Legislative Update – Rhonda Todd, Liaison for Legislative Affairs and Productivity, NC Dept. of Administration & Joyce Krawiec, NC State Senator	11:00 a.m.
	Lunch (working lunch)	11:30-12:00 p.m.
VII	Working Committees (break out meetings): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women & Girls Initiative - 2015 Women's Summit (Women in Business) - Legislative Committee 	12:00-1:00 p.m.
VIII	Adjournment	1:00 p.m.

Next CFW Board Meeting: October 9, 2014