

NC Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes NC Council for Women August 21, 2009

Location: NC CFW/DVC
422 N. Blount St
Raleigh, NC 27601

Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Attendees: Sylvia Ray (Chair), Bobbie Deese, Robin Coates, Sonya Reid, Dr. Stephanie Deese, Dr. Evelyn Williams, Becky Long, Deputy Secretary June Michaux, Executive Director Mel Chilton, Robin Colbert, Patti Kelley, Jackie Jordan, Tara Minter, Courtney Watkins

Participating by phone: Dr. Betty McGrath, Joanne White, Darlene Waddell, Lynne Jenks and Peggy Hammond

Guests: DOA Legislative Liaison Christy Agner, Beth Dehghan and Catherine Evangelista from Commission on Status of Women, Slater Newman

- I. Chair, Sylvia Ray called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Phone attendees introduced themselves.
- II. Comments from Deputy Secretary June Michaux
 - Thanked everyone for their patience throughout the budget process. Things are tight and the Department of Administration is working on how to handle the restrictions.
 - Efforts have been focused on Executive Order 3- Strategic Management and Accountability. All departments and agencies are working on their strategic planning process through surveys, interviews, etc. The CFW/DVC staff has been working very hard to meet deadlines.
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - Sylvia Ray asked if everyone reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and asked the Council for approval of the minutes. Dr. Stephanie Deese made a motion to approve the minutes, Robin Coates seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- IV. Directors Report- Mel Chilton
 - Thanked the Council for all their work during the DH grant review process.
 - Ms. Chilton reviewed the NC CFW/DVC strategic planning goals, vision, mission, and SWOT analysis and asked the Council for their input.
 - Reminded the Board members who are up for reappointment to contact the Governor's office if they would like to continue to serve on the CFW Board. Mel is waiting to hear from the Governor's office about the new CFW chair and new appointments.
 - The Ethics Commission has determined that the Council for Women is a qualified board and that decision will not be appealed. Board members will receive a copy of the letter sent by the Ethics Commission by email.
- V. Report from Grants Administration

- Jackie Jordan dispersed a chart showing where the current DH programs are with 08-09 DH and DFF funding. Some programs have spent all their money while others still have money to spend through September.
- Ms. Jordan will email the Council a list of the 09-10 funded DH programs.

VI. Legislative Update from Christy Agner

- Thanked the legislative committee for all their hard work and reviewed Senate Bill 202- Appropriations Act.
- Grants that receive funds from marriage and/or divorce filing fees (DV and DH) will receive a 3.2% reduction in appropriated dollars. No reduction to SA funds.
- There has been an increase in divorce filing fees, but none of that money will be allotted to CFW grants. There has been a \$10 increase in marriage license fees which will go to the DV grant.

VII. CEDAW Presentation by Slater Newman and Beth Dehghan

- Mr. Newman reviewed the history of CEDAW (human rights treaty for women) and it's current status
- The treaty was ratified by 20 countries in 1981 and now 186 countries have ratified the treaty except: Iran, Sudan, Somalia, three Pacific Island countries and the United States.
- The goal is to get North Carolina Senators to vote to ratify CEDAW. If we can keep the movement going locally, hope to have CEDAW ratified at the national level.
- Beth Dehghan from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has worked closely with Mr. Newman.
- Their goals at CSW are to facilitate the ratification of CEDAW and to raise money to increase the participation of college students attending the United Nations Conference.
- Ms. Dehghan looks forward to working with the Council to increase awareness on women's issues.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Status on Women Report Committee

- Completed and sent the grant proposal and application for the Z. Smith Reynolds grant. They will hear after November 20th if they received the money.
- The award amount is for \$70,000 over the next 2 years to pay for putting the report together through the IWPR and to create an advocacy training program (part of the training could address fundraising for DH programs; also in the DH manual)

B. DH Manual

- Collected intake forms from programs around the state. Their next meeting is on Sept. 8th and they will review these forms and craft a vision/mission statement.
- Patti Kelley has submitted a proposal to have an intern for next spring to work on compiling/formatting the DH manual.

IX. New Business

- Dr. Stephanie Deese and Becky Long discussed the possibility of increasing CFW visibility at job fairs, state fairs, and community events so the public knows where to go for resources on women's issues. Maybe clients from the programs could volunteer.
- Becky Long will send information on an event she has coming up.

- Sylvia Ray feels the Council really needs to redefine the DH definition and the term “displaced homemaker”. It shouldn’t be so restrictive and as of now the money can only be used to serve one type of client. The definition needs to be expanded to include all **Women in Crisis**.
- Christy Agner recommends coming up with a new term and definition in time for review during the short session (May-June) because the Council still has allies in the legislature.
- The legislative committee would be the committee to bring changes in the definition to Ms. Agner—they will work on this at the next full Council meeting.
- Patti Kelley reminded everyone about the CFW/DVC Open House on Aug. 26th.
- Patti Kelley will send out an email with possible dates for the next Council meeting.

X. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.