



BALTIMORE COUNTY *Commission for Women*

April 21, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Meeting started 6:01 p.m.

Present: Amy Blank, Audrey Potter, Cherie Peay, Cheryl Brooks, Helene Waranch, Kara Beverly, Robin Harvey, Rosalyn Berkowitz, Sharon Kehnemui, Sheila Derman, Teresa Messler, Yvette Hicks

Absent: Alejandra Ivanovich, Brenda Savoy, Carmen Christiana, Cylia Lowe, Jennifer Scott, Michelle Greer, Nitsa Stakias Zdziera, Ruth Howard, Sabrina Jones, Zainab Chaudry

A. Minutes

Approved with correction

B. Treasurers Report

Starting balance was \$4,134.34. \$34.55 was spent on Facebook advertising for coming events. Ending balance was \$4,099.79.

C. President's Report

Vice President Helene Waranch was filling in for President Howard. She said she was going to wait until May to hold the nominating committee vote for June's executive committee election.

D. Committee Reports

1. Human Trafficking

Chairwoman Berkowitz said the county council had asked for suggestions on legislation or regulations to reduce human trafficking in the county. The Working Group had discussed eliminating hourly rentals at hotels but Prince George's County eliminated hourlies but it can't say whether it made a difference. A group of survivors also said that it made it more difficult to conduct trafficking but didn't eliminate it. A report of suggestions was submitted to the county.

2. Domestic Violence

Chairwoman Berkowitz said that she did not have a report but noted the Innkeepers Reporting bill will go into effect in October. Another law that passed the General Assembly this year allows domestic violence victims in hospitals to file for protective orders against their abuser directly from the hospital, rather than having to leave and go to the courthouse to file a protective order. There is some discussion on closing the loop of interim protective orders by eliminating them altogether.

3. Women's Health

Commissioner Messler said the committee created a QR code for participants to register for the first community baby shower on April 9 and to get information on access and barriers to care. Twenty-six

people registered with the code and four paper registrations occurred on the day of the event. Twenty-four pack-and-plays, 12 strollers, and 40 safe sleep bundles were distributed to guests as well as diapers, hardback books for moms to read to babies, and flyers on health during pregnancy. Participants included family planners, safety seat representatives, and Babies Born Healthy nurses who conducted demonstrations. Additional services included birth companions and counselors on smoking cessation, mental health services, substance abuse recovery providers, and Medicaid benefits. Many participants said they loved and appreciated the event. The county gained a lot of demographic information about the participants. The next shower is on April 30 from 10:00 am -1:00 pm at the Cockeyville Community Center.

4. Woman of the Year

Chairwoman Peay said the committee made its selections: Charlotte Block for Woman of the Year; Laurie Taylor Mitchell for Woman Making a Difference; and Miriam Telala for Young Woman of the Year. The commission will hold its ceremony on Monday June 13 at 6:00 pm in person. About 75-85 people are expected and the event is to be catered by Towson University's Black and Gold Catering. The budget for Woman of the Year was \$1,200 but since it's in person, Chairwoman Peay requested additional budget to cover catering and programs in addition to the gifts. The committee is recommending a budget of \$2,350, which is a difference of \$1,150. Not enough members were present at the meeting for a quorum to vote on the additional budget so it was suggested that President Howard send an electronic vote request to commissioners.

5. Community Re-entry

Chairwoman Peay said the resource guide is complete and will be submitted to the county for review before being uploaded to the commission website and distributed to service organizations.

6. Policies and Procedures

Chairwoman Hicks said the committee completed revisions to the policies and procedures manual in accordance with the commission's bylaws. The draft will be sent to members ahead of time to discuss at the May meeting.

7. Public Policy

Co-Chairwomen Blank and Beverly discussed the results of the General Assembly as it related to the commission's priorities. The committee will hold a retreat on June 6 and will send an invitation electronically to members beforehand.

Adjournment:

Next meeting is May 19, 2022.