

## **Baltimore County Commission for Women Minutes**

**February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Webex Meeting**

#### **In Attendance:**

Sarah Curry

Rosalyn Berkowitz

Carmen Christiana

Michelle Greer

Sharon Kehnemui

Sabrina Jones

Cheryl Brooks

Robin Harvey

Sheila Derman

Helene Waranch

Amy Blank

Alejandra Ivanovich

Kara Beverly

Brenda Savoy

Audrey Potter

## **Meeting Called to Order – 6:02 pm**

### **General Information:**

- Waiting to approve minutes from January during March meeting when all executive board members are present.
- Treasurers Report states that our financials lie at \$4518.82.

### **Strategic Communications Report:**

- Sharon made connections with representatives from a shelter during her District 7 townhall meeting who provide resources to underprivileged women.

### **Economic Empowerment Report:**

- Allow women and victims to participate directly in the production and construction of the Family Justice Center.

### **Family Justice Center Report:**

- Each commissioner has been asked to attend a townhall meeting for their respective district and advocate for support of the Family Justice Center.
- After town hall meetings, we will set up an official meeting with the County Executive to discuss moving forward with official planning for the Family Justice Center.

- Amy Blank & Rosalyn Berkowitz have been contacting service providers in order to garner assistance and support for the Family Justice Center.
- We may not follow a model similar to the Montgomery Family Justice Center as they are run primarily by their sheriff's office which would not be as easy to accomplish within Baltimore County. In addition, the geography of our county is unique and differs widely from Montgomery County, so we would need to create a model that would more effectively serve all Baltimore County citizens.
- We have heard from Madam Stacey Rodgers and her staff that they would like to view the Center for Hope as well as the Montgomery Family Justice Center in order to gain an understanding of what such a center would look like.
- Rosalyn has connections to an agency which has security resources that could be applied within the Family Justice Center.
- We will complete more research, compile feedback from communities, and more in order to determine what type of Family Justice model is most preferred and will work best according to the needs of others. Therefore, as of right now we are not tied to one specific model or plan.
- Once we have collected all of the necessary data and feedback, we should call a formal meeting with the County Executive to propose our plan.
- Make a list of service providers who we would like to have work out of the center.
- Reach out to organizations such as the Baltimore County Bar Association, the Human Relations Commission, etc. for assistance with this project.

**Public Policy Report:**

- Amy, Rosalyn, and Sarah testified on SB203 otherwise known as the “See Someone, Save Someone” human trafficking bill in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. They will testify once again in the House on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- We must lobby committee members because Senate bill was dropped as it must be amended to match the House bill.

### **Woman of the Year Report:**

- We are considering having the event outside of the council chambers (ex: Sheraton Hotel in Towson).
- There will be three main awards this year which are the Young Woman of the Year Woman of the Year and Woman Making a Difference.
- No date has been settled on for the event as more information must be acquired from the County Executive.
- Budget proposal of \$5,000 (looking for sponsors to cover the costs).
- Tickets will be \$40.
- Recommendations can be emailed to Sabrina Jones (specifically needed in regard to a key note speaker).
- We are hoping to invite previous recipients of the award back for this event.
- We will be inclusive on those with they/them pronouns if they are nominated.
- Recipient of the Woman of the Year Award could possibly serve as an intern on the commission and recommend them to the County Executive to be appointed as a commissioner.

### **Other Information:**

- The county budget will be decided at the beginning of March. So, please submit all requests for the budget to our treasurer, Sharon Kehnemui, by March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

**Meeting Adjourned – 7:13**