



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Commission for Women  
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## MINUTES

### Oregon Commission for Women

Friday, January 22, 2010

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Sussman Shank LLP

1000 SW Broadway, Suite 1400

Portland, OR 97205-3089

### ATTENDEES

**Chairwoman:** Sue Castner  
**Vice Chair:** Nena Cook  
**Commissioners:** Donna Harris, Megan Jacquot (*teleconference*), Rep. Betty Komp, Sen. Martha Schrader, Karen Shimada  
**Speaker(s):** Danny Santos (*teleconference*)  
**Guests:** Raquel Bahana (*Governor's Office*), Sunny Petit (*Portland State Univ.*), Tammy Yasrobi (*Sen. Schrader's Chief of Staff*)  
**Staff:** Joy Howard

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Castner called the meeting to order at 11:39 AM

#### **II. Adoption of Agenda**

Adoption of agenda was motioned and approved unanimously

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were motioned and approved unanimously

#### **IV. Danny Santos, Senior Advisor to Governor Kulongoski**

The February Special Session, budget, and OCFW

##### 1) 2010 Legislative Session

- a) The session is scheduled to begin February 1 and last the whole month
- b) Next Tuesday's (Jan. 26) passage or failure of measures 66 and 67 will make a large impact on structure of the session. If they both fail, it is much more likely the session will be budget focused.
- c) Budget Issues:
  - i. New revenues
  - ii. Use of stability funds (education, etc.)
  - iii. Use of agency reserve funds
  - iv. Bonding (borrowing) will not be an option
  - v. Cuts
    - a) Legislators can propose agency cuts

- b) Governor has authority to implement across the board cuts (e.g., 8% cuts to all agencies)
  - vi. General Fund group cuts
    - a) Take proposed budget cuts
    - b) Suspension of smaller agencies
  - d) Recommendations to OACO:
    - i. Be your on advocate
    - ii. Connect with legislators, community organizations, and other sectors and tell them about the value of the commission and educate them on the importance of the commissions continuing to be funded.
- 2) Administrator vacancy
  - a) A 75% salary reduction was recommended in the OACO budget and a administrator will not be hired right now
  - b) Daniel Rodriguez is scheduled to start part time next week as the OACO Interim Administrator
- 3) [SB 1035](#)
  - a) This bill will statutorily change expense process for agencies. It is not expected to go far, but Danny wanted to be sure the Commission is aware of it and to watch it this session.
  - b) Summary of bill: Directs specified state agencies, boards and commissions to report to Legislative Assembly or Emergency Board on plan to abolish agency, board or commission or merge with another agency, board or commission.

Comments:

Commissioner Harris stated that she is working on a letter to send to the Governor and legislators advocating for the defunding of OCFW. She went on to describe the reasons backing her decision which included that she does not see the relevance of funding the commission when there is a 13% poverty rate of women in Oregon. She also stated that a Joint Commission option might be a more effective way to serve women and minority groups in Oregon.

Responses -

- 1) Danny: Respects her position but believes the OCFW's Women of Achievement event has been a positive.
- 2) Senator Schrader: Believes there would be some resistance if the OCFW were to be suspended because of the institutional memory of the Commission as well as future partnerships being developed (e.g., Centennial Celebration, Women Veterans Center, etc.). She also stated there is value in having separate entities.
- 3) Representative Komp: Women in legislative chambers would not take the decision to suspend OCFW well.
- 4) Commissioner Cook: The letter Commissioner Harris proposes to send to the Governor and legislators would give ammunition to those who already want to suspend. She asked Commissioner Harris not to send the letter, however, if she does decide to proceed, asks that OCFW send a letter stating they don't support her ideas and her views are not that of the Commission but her as an individual.

VOTE:

- 1) Commissioner Cook made motion that OCFW directly respond to Commissioner Harris' letter and advocate for continued funding of the Commission. Commissioner Jacquot seconded.
  - a. Ayes: Komp, Schrader, Cook, Shimada, Castner, Jacquot
  - b. Nays: Harris
  - c. Motion approved
- 2) Commissioner Harris agreed to share the letter with commissioners.

## **V. Upcoming Special Session, potential effects on women in Oregon & joining key coalitions**

In 1993 OCFW was the lead agency in founding the Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance. To date, the Commission has worked to support hundreds of pieces of legislation designed to address inequities in Oregon law and to create a system that supports women having safer lives and achieving economic and social parity.

Chair Castner proposed that OCFW draft a letter to legislators, partners, and other entities letting them know what pieces of legislation OCFW is looking at and that they are important to the Commission. Legislative pieces include: human trafficking, BPA ban, Maternal Mental Health Month, Employment Related Day Care, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening funding, etc.

VOTE:

Chair Castner moved that she draft a letter to legislators of important legislative issues to OCFW. Commissioner Jacquot seconded. Approved unanimously.

## **VI. Chair's Report to Commission**

- 1) New Commissioners
  - a) Within the next few weeks, three new commissioners will be appointed to OCFW.
    - i. Sunny Petit, Portland
    - ii. Stacey Schultz, Eugene
    - iii. Darlene Taylor, Medford
- 2) International Visitors – February 11, 2010
  - a) Chair Castner, Commissioner Cook, and Sunny Petit have been invited by the World Affairs Council to meet with a handful of Russian delegates who are interested in the status of women in Oregon as it pertains to labor and employment law and discrimination
- 3) Girl Scouts
  - a) They would like the assistance of the Commission to have troop members attend Senate and House floor sessions
  - b) Senator Schrader and Representative Komp agreed to assist in making arrangements
- 4) Friends of OCFW
  - a) Roslyn Farrington and Regan Gray are no longer involved with the organization. There is a whole new board and members.
- 5) Date for 2010 WOA Awards brunch
  - a) The brunch will be moving to June or July this year because of the October elections
- 6) Streamlining nomination process
  - a) Looking to have an online nomination form process. Will also be partnering with other organizations to reach out to minority groups.
- 7) Newsletter
  - a) Produced quarterly. Submit items you'd like added to the newsletter by the second week of March

## **VII. Report on Commissioner Projects and Objectives**

- 1) Women Veterans – Senator Schrader
  - a) Recently had lunch with First Lady Obama. Would like to consider scheduling the WOA brunch around the opening of the Oregon Women's VA Center and First Lady Obama's visit in order to invite her to the brunch.
- 2) "Oregon Women and the Law" – Commissioners Cook and Jacquot

- a) There are about twenty chapters in the book that need to be updated. Working on a letter to send to past and potential chapter editors.
- b) Working to publish book online in a PDF format. Chair Castner is talking to print organizations and potential sponsors to help print copies of the book
- 3) Workplace and Interpersonal Violence – Commissioner Harris
  - a) Has a document on topic which can be posted to OCFW website
  - b) Will write up information on topic to add to newsletter

**VIII. Adjournment at 1:20 PM**