

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission for Women
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women
Friday, May 15, 2015
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Room 1C, Portland, OR 97232

Chair: Stephanie Vardavas
Vice Chair: Absent
Commissioners: Doris Cancel-Tirado, Sheri Malstrom, Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna, Barbara Spencer
Absent: Jeanne Burch, Stephanie Swanson
Guests: Theresa Powell, Jodi Ballard Beach, Reyna Lopez, Sunny Petit
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

- I. Call to order** - The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm. A quorum was not established.
- II. Adoption of the Agenda** – The agenda was adopted by common consent.
- III. Approval of the March 2015 Minutes** – This was tabled until the next meeting.
- IV. Public Comment** - there was no public comment

V. OCFW Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Health & Environmental Justice Committee – Commissioner Malstrom attended the final meeting of the Oregon Women’s Health and Wellness Alliance (OWHWA) with Lucy. Commissioner Malstrom has been testifying on health-related bills representing the OCFW on a number of bills. The Chair thanked her for her efforts.
2. Women’s Economic Security Committee
Reyna Lopez, Outreach Director, Our Oregon, A Better Oregon campaign at the request of the OCFW Economic Security Committee. Her presentation illustrated the growing gap between the upper and lower classes and supports legislation to tax giant corporations at a higher rate than they are currently due to tax breaks. The Commission thanked her for her presentation and looks forward to seeing Better Oregon mobilize communities with their information.
3. Legislative Committee – Chair Vardavas reviewed the OCFW legislative report for the 2015 legislative session and the 21 bills on which the Commission has testified so far. This includes 2 bills the OCFW authored with Sen. Monnes Anderson. The Commission has also actively participated on Sen. Chip Shields’ legislative task force on Incarcerated

Women and the Family Preservation Project. Senator Shields has expressed his deep appreciation to the OCFW for their support. It has been a busy and productive legislative session with more personal testimony from Commissioners, more invitations from legislators to testify, and success with the 2 bills that were recommended by the OCFW Women's Economic Security Committee. She thanked the Commissioners for their outstanding advocacy and most recently to Commissioner Cancel-Tirado PhD, who brought 10 of her Women's Studies students from SOU to the OCFW's joint legislative day with the AAUW. The legislative report is appended as part of the minutes.

B. 2014 Women of Achievement awards wrap-up

The Chair thanked Jodi and the Friends for a beautiful WOA event and their tremendous efforts. The event was intimate and received numerous compliments from attendees and the awardees.

There was discussion about how to better coordinate efforts for putting on a brunch. Jodi estimated that she spent 150 hours working on the event and that is not sustainable for her. The Friends would like to meet with Chair Vardavas to discuss what form the event will take in the future. Chair Vardavas would like to have Commissioner Malstrom present for this meeting, given her fundraising experience.

C. Biennial Report of the OCFW for the Legislature – Chair Vardavas is preparing the report which will include highlights from the 2014 and 15 legislative session regarding the Commission's advocacy, the OCFW's partnership with the State Library for Equity reference materials on subjects of interest to the OCFW and OACs, the WOA event, leadership development, and research through committee work.

D. Social Media – Chair Vardavas reminded Commissioners to ask their friends to “like” the OCFW Facebook page. Prior to WOA event Stephanie noted that she added a premium FB option to boost circulation and distribution of posts for WOA. In 2 separate postings regarding the WOA on FB, it reached 3,000-5,000 people each time and a statistical report showed that more than 100 FB viewers “clicked through” to the ticket ordering page at the Friends. She is willing to do so again, as it seemed a good way to increase outreach.

VI. OCFW New Business

A. Legislative Discussion

1. Ratification of e-vote for [2015 Legislative Session Bills supported by OCFW](#) – this item was tabled due to lack of quorum.

B. Expending General Fund in support of the OCFW's statutory mission

The Commission considered options to invest end of the biennium General Funds in ways to further the statutory charge of the Commission. Ideas included:

1. Co-sponsoring the costs of Legislative Days with community partners.
2. Sponsoring leadership scholarships for diverse young women statewide. New Leadership Oregon has a number of young women who could participate in NLO with the help of an OCFW scholarship at \$250 each. The NLO leadership training and mentoring includes public speaking skills, networking, building relationships and connecting with women leaders in government, education and business.

3. Oregon Women's Equity Coalition dues - This will be reconsidered at a later date.

C. OCFW meeting in Corvallis

The Commissioners discussed pursuing a regular meeting in Corvallis, potentially in July or September including time, location, format and guests. Commissioners agreed that they would like to host the July meeting there if that can work. Discussion followed.

Possible partners and guests to invite for an OCFW meeting in Corvallis:

- Zonta Club of Corvallis <http://www.zontacorvallis.org>
- Abby's House
- OSU Extension program connection to rural women farmers
- Casa Latinas
- Benton County Health Dept.'s Health Navigators
- Representative Sara Gelser
- Representative Dan Rayfield

Nancy will contact the Corvallis City Library to see when it is available.

VII. Administrator's Report

A. Update on OACO's budget bill – Both the House and the Senate have now approved .5 FTE additional staff, a policy analyst, for the OACO in the 2015-17 biennium along with a reclassification to the Executive Assistant position from a level 1 to level 2. This is an historic vote for the OAC's to add their first professional staff devoted solely to helping the OAC's progress their Advocacy and Public Policy Research pursuits. Sen. Steiner Hayward helped champion the new staffing plan as the Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means General Government Committee. The new reclassification is effective July 1st and the hiring process for the new .5 FTE policy analyst will begin during the summer.

B. Update on Emlyn Foxen, the OCFW's policy research intern in incarcerated parents – Emlyn will be a senior at a Claremont school in Pomona, California, has a paid scholarship and will focus her research on incarcerated women who are parents. She will work out of the OACO.

C. OCAPIA Chair Stephen Ying is sending a letter to the Governor to encourage her to appoint diverse individuals into key leadership positions in her office. He has reached out to all the OAC's to write a similar letter to the Governor and offer the OACs' assistance. Discussion followed and it was agreed that Chair Vardavas would also reach out to Governor Brown in a letter.

VIII. Good of the Order

A. Elections for OCFW Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the July meeting. Vice Chair Jeanne Burch is stepping down from the OCFW due to other time commitments. The Commissioners will miss her leadership, energy and experience.

B. Next OCFW meeting is Thursday, July 16th in Corvallis.

C. There is a free screening of "The Mask You Live In" on June 1st and 2nd at PSU.

IX. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm.

2015 Legislative Report

Oregon Commission for Women, May 15, 2015

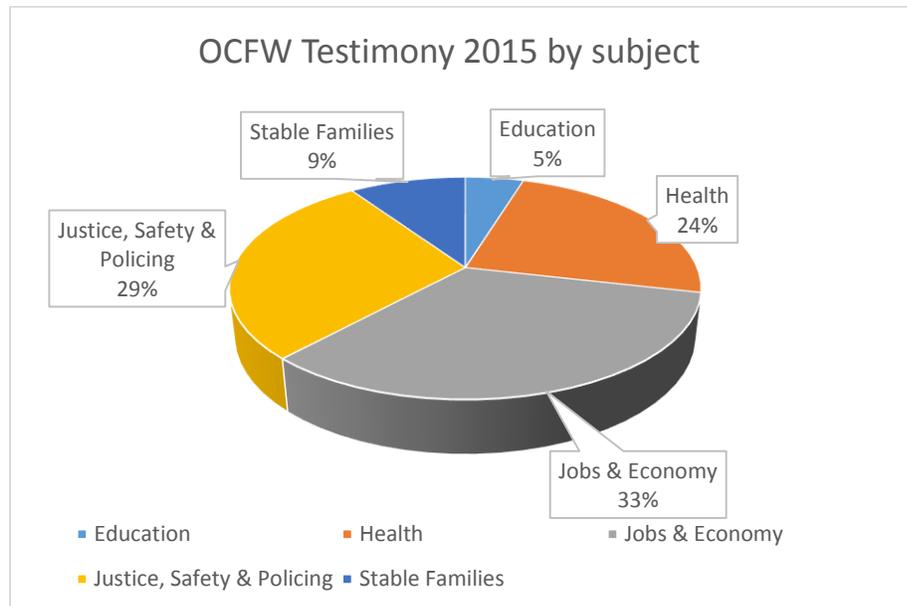
1 AREAS OF LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

The statutory mission of the Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW) includes its work for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal and political equality for women and to maintain a continuing assessment of the issues and needs confronting women in Oregon. To accomplish this, the OCFW works within its committee structure, and collaboratively with the legislative members of the Commission as well as the other Advocacy Commissions to identify policy issues for which it will craft legislation and bills it will support during legislative session.

In the 2015 legislative session, this has included legislation and advocacy in 6 focus areas:

- Education
- Jobs and the economy
- Healthcare
- Justice, safety and policing
- Housing and stable families
- Civic engagement

2 2015 TRACKED AND SUPPORTED BILLS



The Commission is monitoring 36 bills in 6 focus areas for the 2015 legislative session with weekly reports to the Commissioners. As of May 15, 2015 which is about halfway through the provided testimony and other support for 21 bills.

2015 OCFW Testimony (as of May 15, 2015)

Education

1. HB 3308A, Directs HECC to convene work group to make recommendations on how to address disparities in higher education among traditionally marginalized, underserved and underrepresented communities, [Click here for Testimony \(OCAPIA/OCBA/OCHA/OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Live bill, has had hearings in the House and Senate. Waiting for Senate work session.](#)

Healthcare

2. SB 445, Requires medical marijuana facilities and marijuana retailers to post notice of harmful effects of marijuana on pregnant women, [Testimony \(OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Live bill. Senate hearing and work session. Waiting action in the Joint Committee on Implementing Measure 91.](#)
3. Implementing Measure 91 (Control, Regulation, and Taxation of Marijuana and Industrial Hemp Act), [Testimony \(OCFW\)](#)
4. SB 478, High Priority Chemicals of Concern for Children's Health, [Testimony \(OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Live bill. Had Senate hearing/work session and referred to Ways and Means with a do pass recommendation with amendments.](#)
5. HB 2600, Requires continuation of group health insurance coverage for employee on family leave, [Testimony \(OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Live bill. Had House and Senate hearings, waiting for work session in Senate workforce committee.](#)
6. HB 2934A, OHA to develop recommendations on a basic health plan, [Testimony \(OCAPIA/OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Live bill. Had Senate and House hearings and work sessions](#)

Jobs/Economy

7. SB 454, Requires All Employers to Implement Paid Sick Time for Employees, [Testimony \(OCAPIA/OCBA/OCHA/OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Live bill. Had 2 public hearings and work sessions.](#)
8. SB 454A, Requires all employers to implement sick time for employees, [Testimony \(OCAPIA/OCBA/OCHA/OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Live bill.](#)
9. SB 491, Requirements in public contracting for compliance with pay equity provisions of state law, [Testimony \(OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Live bill. Had hearings and work sessions in both houses.](#)
10. HB 2005, Requires All Employers to Implement Paid Sick Time for Employees, [Testimony \(OCAPIA/OCBA/OCHA/OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Dead. Not referred to a committee in the Senate for next hrg.](#)
11. HB 2006, Makes practice of paying employees of opposite sex who hold equivalent jobs at different wage rates unlawful employment practice, [Request for work session \(OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Dead. Not referred to a Senate committee for next hearing.](#)
12. HB 2007A, Makes imposition of disciplinary action against employee that inquires about or discloses wage information unlawful employment practice, [Testimony \(OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Live bill. Had 2 public hearings, waiting for work session in Senate workforce.](#)
13. HB 2010, Authorizes employee of certain employers to request flexible, predictable or stable work schedule, [Testimony \(OCFW\)](#)
[Status: Dead. Had one public hearing and no work session.](#)

Justice, Safety and Policing

14. SB 525A, Prohibits possession of firearm or ammunition by person who is subject to restraining order, **Testimony (OCFW)**
Status: Live bill. Had 2 public hearings and work sessions. Currently in House Rules.
15. SB 759, Requires certain institutions that enroll students who receive Oregon Opportunity Grant to ensure that students who report sexual assault receive necessary services and assistance, **Testimony (OCFW)**
Status: Live bill. Had 2 public hearings and 2 work sessions
16. SB 759A, Requires public universities, community colleges and Oregon-based private universities and colleges to adopt written protocol for victims of sexual assault, **Testimony (OCFW)**
Status: Live Bill
17. HB 2002, Requires Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to establish independent procedures for receiving and recording profiling complaints, **Testimony (OCAPIA/OCBA/OCHA/OCFW)**
Status: Live Bill
18. HB 2205, Establishes Fund to End Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, **Testimony (OCAPIA/OCHA/OCFW)**
Status: Referred to Ways and Means
19. HB 2776, Protective Orders for victims of domestic violence, **Testimony (OCFW)**
Status: Live bill. Scheduled for next public hearing in Senate Judiciary May 19th

Stable Families

20. SB 492, Authorizes use of accrued sick leave or personal business leave by certain employees who are victims of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault or stalking, **Testimony (OCFW)**
Status: Live bill. Had 2 public hearings and work sessions.
21. SB 939, Directs Department of Corrections to enter into contracts with nonprofit entities to create programs to assist children of incarcerated parents, **Testimony (OCAPIA/OCBA/OCHA/OCFW)**
Status: Live bill. Public hearing and work session held. Referred to Ways and Means.

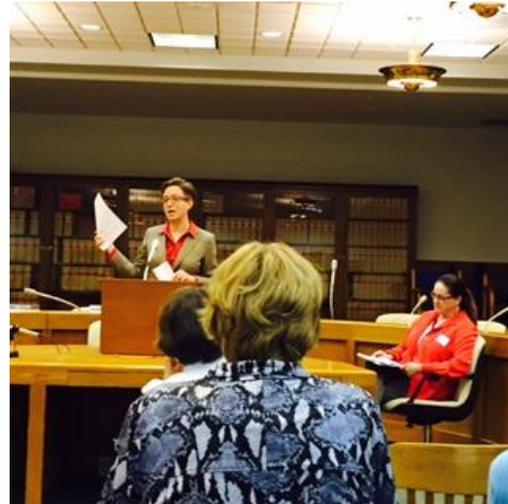
3 OCFW PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND STATUS

The OCFW Committee on Economic Security reviewed other states' examples of legislative support and presented a slate of bills from Minnesota that addressed a number of women's economic issues. The Commission discussed the committee's findings and selected two areas on which they worked with the OCFW legislators to propose new legislation for the 2015 Oregon legislature. The bills are:

1. **SB 492**: Authorizes use of accrued sick leave or personal business leave by certain employees who are victims of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault or stalking.
Status: Live bill. Had 2 public hearings and work sessions.
2. **SB 491**: Assuring state contactors for large contracts have provisions in place regarding wage equity
Status: Live bill. Had hearings and work sessions in both houses.

4 2015 JOINT LEGISLATIVE DAY WITH AAUW

The OCFW joined the AAUW for a joint Legislative Day at the Capitol on May 12, 2015. The attendees included 10 Western Oregon University, School of Public Health students, guests of OCFW Commissioner Doris Cancel-Tirado. The 50 participants were welcomed by presentations from House Speaker Tina Kotek and Senator Betsy Johnson, who spoke on women's economic issues, affordable housing, and the state budgeting process. The attending Commissioners,



their guest students and AAUW members visited in small groups with the Office of the Senate President and other scheduled meetings with individual legislators on women's issues including provision of sick leave, wage transparency and other issues of importance.

5 OCFW BUDGET SUPPORT TO ADD AND RECLASS COMMISSION STAFF

On March 25th, OCFW Chair Stephanie Vardavas joined the OACO Administrator and the Chairs from the Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA,) Black Affairs (OCBA,) and Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) to present the Advocacy Commissions' budget request to the Joint Ways and Means General Government Committee. 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the OACO administrative support agency for the Advocacy Commissions (OAC's) which has supported the development and work of the OAC's with 2 staff since 2005. Supported by testimony from Senator Jackie Winters, Representative Lew Frederick (on behalf of the 8 OAC legislative members,) the Governor's Office, AAUW, Urban League, APANO, the Center for Intercultural Organizing, and others, the General Government committee cast a historic vote to increase the staff support of the Commissions at the work session for the Commission budget bill on May 7th.

Their passed budget recommendation will be heard next by the full Joint Ways and Means Committee on its way to floor votes in the House and Senate. It includes a permanent reclassification for the OACO Executive Assistant and the addition of a permanent Operations and Policy Analyst position at the .5 FTE level. Although the Advocacy Commissioners and the legislative members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee had hoped to approve further support for the statutory work of the Advocacy Commissions, all agreed that in a challenging budget year the investment in additional support for the Commissions marks the Governor's



and legislature's appreciation for the important public policy work for the success of communities of color and women in Oregon of the OAC's.