MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW)
Friday, January 19, 2018, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
800 NE Oregon Street, Room 612
Portland OR 97232

Attendees:
Chair: Dr. Barbara Ramírez Spencer
Vice Chair: Kimberly Olson
Commissioners: Doris Cancel-Tirado, Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Representative Sheri Malstrom
Absent: Clara Beas-Fitzgerald, Dr. Adrienne Ochs, Julia Yoshimoto
Guests: Kassandra Krifka, community member; Bernice Benade, Center for Women’s Leadership
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to order - Chair Ramírez Spencer called the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

II. Approval of Prior Action Items
A. Approval of the July 2017 Minutes
MOTION (Olson/Cancel-Tirado): To accept the July 2017 Minutes as written. CARRIED.

B. Approval of the 10/6/17 Oregon Advocacy Commissions Annual Joint Meeting Minutes
MOTION (Olson/Cancel-Tirado): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED.

C. Approval of the 10/6/17 OCFW Meeting Minutes
MOTION (Olson/Rep Malstrom): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED.

D. Approval of the 11/17/17 OCFW Meeting Notes
MOTION (Olson/Cancel-Tirado): To approve the notes as written. CARRIED.

E. OCFW Recommendations for ODE Ethnic Studies Advisory Board: Ana del Rocio, Ami Patel
MOTION (Olson/Cancel-Tirado): To approve the recommendations. CARRIED

III. Approval of the January agenda
MOTION (Olson/Cancel-Tirado): To approve the agenda as written. CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment - There was no public comment.

V. Presentation on Portland State University’s Center for Women’s Leadership – Bernice Bernde, Program and Communications Assistant at the PSU Center for Women’s Leadership reported on the program which annually brings diverse attendees to Portland and the capitol from all colleges and universities across the state. She outlined the curriculum for
the leadership course which includes speakers, panels, and experiential learning and reflection. Bernice thanked the OCFW for its support of the leadership program with scholarships for 8 attendees over several recent years. NEW (National Education for Women’s) Leadership Oregon is a nationally recognized program that is part of Rutgers’ leadership programs which now have 21 locations nationally. Traci Rossi is now the Executive Director of the Center, following Sunny Petit, a past Chair of the OCFW. Bernice noted that as the NEW Leadership Oregon attendees spend a day or two at the capitol, it is striking to have a large group of diverse young women in a space typically filled with the men of the dominant culture. People stop to watch and listen to the group, asking the organizers who they are. Other leadership programs through the Center include their Teen program, Girls: Oregon, Action, Leadership and Service (GOALS) and BIG Talk Speaker Series - inspired by roommates skipping the small talk. These programs are overseen in part by a robust committee of alumnae of NEW Leadership Oregon.

Chair Spencer and the Commissioners noted that their upcoming April fundraiser will again make it possible for OCFW to provide scholarships to emerging women leaders to attend NEW Leadership Oregon and other organizations’ leadership training for diverse women in Oregon. They thanked Bernice for her presentation. Discussion followed.

VI. Commissioners’ Reports

- Kim Olson – Attended Ethnic Studies Advisory Group lunch meeting. Gained clarity about that group's work. Kim is now Treasurer’s designee on State Board of Education. Attended yesterday's meeting, learned about differences between ODE and State Board of Education. The new Retirement Savings Plan, Oregon Saves, is going well. 175 employers signed up, just mandated for employers with more than 100 people to sign up. Already $500K saved.
- Dr. Doris Cancel-Tirado – Working with Trish Garner for Lobby Day with AAUW.
- Senator Monnes Anderson – Is gearing up for session 2018 and has a number of women’s’ health related bills that she will share with the Commission.
- Rep Malstrom – Has two bills she is sponsoring including one on a health related topic she will share with the Commission. The deadline for all bills is next week.

VII. Old Business

A. Women of Achievement (WOA) Awards Recap – Chair Spencer reviewed the process to date – OCFW reviewed applications last fall and chose four remarkable women as honorees for next Women of Achievement awards. Barbara has contacted all of them and their nominators to share the news of their award. She has:
- Prepared a press release,
- Sent information needed for preparation of a Senate Concurrent Resolution,
- Written a program booklet with the bios of the honorees, and
- Drafted a Floor Letter for the Senate on the day of the concurrent resolution.

This year for the first time the WOA Awards ceremony will be combined with the Women's History Month proclamation signing by the Governor. It will be a simpler ceremony this time but just as elegant in the Governor’s ceremonial room with Governor Brown in attendance for the proclamation signing. The Commission thanked Chair Spencer for her outstanding work in preparation for the twin events and to Nancy for her expert support and coordination with the Governor’s office and the Senate President’s office.
B. OAC Annual Joint Meeting Review

The Commission discussed the outcomes of the OAC’s Joint Meeting in October 2017. There was robust discussion about intersectionality and a new joint committee(s) which could guide intersectional legislative, research, and other work. Related meetings will likely be conducted by ZOOM or conference calls to keep budget considerations in line. Lucy will work with the Joint planning committee that developed the October 6th session to prepare some options for Commissioners to consider regarding a potential committee structure. She will also work with them on a suitable staffing and meeting frequency plan for the OAC’s. The Joint planning committee will meet on Monday, 1/22, to begin the work of implementing ideas from October 6th.

C. State Library Presentation

Vice Chair Olson reported on the OAC’s meeting with and presentation by Natalie Brant, from the State Library. The State Library is making their research tools and research librarians available to all Commission members to access literature searches and law reviews from other states as part of the Commissions’ advocacy and research work. It is very exciting to have these tools being made available and she looks forward to using them. A number of Commissioners attended Natalie’s presentation by ZOOM.

D. 2018 Legislative Session

- Kim - The outcome of Measure 101 will have a big impact on what is covered in session.
- Paid Family Leave – Rep. Malstrom continues to actively track and support this bill. This will be covered in session, and also the clean energy jobs bill. She noted that in Short Session, if a bill does not have a work session scheduled in the first week, it is probably dead.
- Sen Monnes Anderson - New tax bill will cost Oregon several hundred M$. Looking at possible changes to S-Corps. Sen. Mark Hass is working on this. Also prescription drug formulary costs bill. Because of the loss of Family Care, Providence is stepping up and taking on 13,000 behavioral health children. If you hear of patients not getting adequate care contact her. Rep Salinas, and Rep Alonso Leon are supporting a pharmacy bill. Sen MA has mental health bill regarding providers, and the lack of psychologists, setting up a phone line with OHSU. Concussion bill - more concussions for women with weaker necks, want to limit youth returning to soccer, etc. Bill for patients to keep Medicaid for 1 year after being admitted. Housing bill - Rep Reardon has a good one. Speed of short session is very fast.
- Malstrom - all insurances to pay for children's hearing aids.
- Kim - big ripples still to come from the new Federal tax law regarding affordable housing, and education expenses deductions.
- Search words for OCFW. Also, for the first time, Lucy will send on behalf of the OACs, a request from OAC Leadership to all legislators to notify Lucy of bills regarding equity for short session.
- Lucy will send a reminder to Sen MA and Rep Malstrom to please send list of bills of interest to Lucy. Session begins Monday, Feb 5th.
- Commissions have been participating more each short session.

E. U-Visa Group meeting

Commissioner Yoshimoto submitted a brief report about the most recent U-Visa Group meeting: I did participate in the U-Visa work group on Wednesday morning. In short, they are working on legislation to make the process of U-Visa certification by agencies who do investigation, i.e. law
enforcement, more consistent. An individual can apply for a U-Visa if they are victims of a crime and are helpful in the case. Part of the application includes getting certification from an agency saying that they were a victim in a crime and were helpful to the case. There seems to be inconsistency in the way agencies are determining whether to certify a potential applicant.

SB 1006 was the legislation introduced in the 2017 session.

The next meeting for the work group will be after the legislative session in March or April.

VIII. New Business

A. OCFW Strategic Priority Area – Women’s Leadership: Discussion of priorities, programs and research

The Commissioners discussed the OCFW’s role in strengthening its current advocacy focused partnerships and considered ways that the OCFW grow new partnerships around its leadership development roles and policy research partnerships including adding rural analysis. The Commission also considered ways the OCFW can engage the women serving on OCAPIA, OCHA, and OCBA in their advocacy, policy research, and leadership work. Discussion followed.

The Commissioners agreed that the OCFW will:

- **In Advocacy:** Pursue joint legislative advocacy and testimony writing on intersectional issues with OCAPIA, OCBA, and OCHA during upcoming 2018 short session.
- **In Leadership development:** Work closely with the other Advocacy Commissions to solicit diverse nominations for the Women of Achievement that also include rural and urban leaders. Continue to organize WOU students to attend the AAUW/OCFW lobby day (thank you, Commissioner Dr. Cancel-Tirado!)
- **In Research:** Reach out to potential new research partners, including the Women’s Foundation of Oregon, and explore university-based partnerships for rural and women’s equity research.
- **Intersectional work between the Advocacy commissions:** Continue to engage in the Intersectional committee of the OACs, a new committee that is currently functioning as the OAC’s first legislative committee around issues of intersectional importance.

B. NW Natural Fundraiser Proposal

The Chair led a discussion with the OCFW on hosting a first leadership development fundraiser in the spring. There are seldom funds in the OACO budget to allow OCFW or the other OAC’s to grow their leadership development work with leadership training scholarships for emerging leaders or other types of support. In the past biennium, the OCFW elected to use some General Fund remaining in the OACO budget to provide scholarships to NEW Leadership Oregon for 8 young women from diverse backgrounds and broad geographic representation across Oregon to attend the 2015-16 cohorts. Following discussion, the Commission approved moving ahead with a modest fundraiser in April that would focus on leadership development: both from the perspective of seasoned and emerging leaders, but as a celebration of women’s leadership in Oregon. Northwest Natural is willing to donate hors d'oeuvres, and festive beverages in its event space downtown for the Oregon Advocacy Commissions to take on fundraising for leadership in under-represented communities. They have an opening in their event calendar on the evening of April 26 from 5pm - 7pm if the OCFW wishes to host the fundraiser. The space holds about 120 people and includes an outdoor patio on NW Natural’s 4th floor. Chair Spencer thanked the
OCFW for its willingness to try such a fundraiser and will follow up with NW Natural to reserve the space. The Commissioners will help fill the room with women who care deeply about leadership and find sponsors for modest amounts who would be proud to be associated with such a gathering. It was suggested by a meeting observer that Oregon women leaders be invited. The suggestions included: Shauna Brownstein at NW Natural, Governor Barbara Roberts, Governor Brown, past Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins, Attorney General Rosenblum, Susan Castillo and other leaders who the Commissioners identify to join in the celebration.

C. Women’s History Month proclamation
Commissioners reviewed the draft proclamation Dr. Spencer prepared and agreed to submit it as written. They thanked Barbara for her efforts.

D. AAUW Lobby Day, February 9
The OCFW partners with the AAUW in support of their annual lobby day at the capitol. This year Commissioner Dr. Cancel-Tirado is expecting to attend, for her third time, with Western Oregon University students in public health and women’s studies. The Chair reported that the AAUW's theme this year is harassment and bullying in K-12. There will be a panel discussion. Commissioner Dr. Ochs may also attend.

IX. Administrator’s Report
A. Hiring for OPA3 position at OACO
Lucy reported that the hiring process for the OACO’s .5 FTE Policy Analyst 3 is moving ahead. There were 45 qualified applicants out of a field of 75 submitted applications. This is 10 more qualified applicants than during the first hiring round in 2015. The first round of interviews has now been completed by the hiring panel: Each of the commissions’ Chair or Vice Chair, plus HR, Nancy, and Lucy in her role as Administrator and hiring manager. The panel conducted 5 first round interviews from their choices of top applicants and have now narrowed down to three applicants for the 2nd interviews which will be conducted by Lucy and Nancy on 1/26.

X. For the Good of the Order
A. The next OCFW meeting is March 16, 2018, Rm 612, 800 NE Oregon St.
B. Announcements: there were no announcements

XI. Adjourn - Chair Dr. Barbara Ramirez Spencer adjourned the meeting at 2:20pm.