MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW)
Friday, January 20, 2017, 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: Dr. Doris Cancel-Tirado (phone), Clara Elena Beas-Fitzgerald (phone), Nikki Fisher, Adrienne Ochs, Sen. Monnes Anderson (phone)
Absent: Stephanie Vardavas
Guests: Julia Yoshimoto, Oregon Justice Resource Center; Rep. Sheri Malstrom; Gary Sims, Michele Malick, Department of Corrections
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann

I. Call to order - Chair Spencer called the meeting to order 12:02pm.

II. Approval of the agenda
MOTION (Cancel-Tirado/Ochs): To approve the agenda as written. CARRIED.

III. Approval of the November 2016 Minutes
MOTION (Cancel-Tirado/Monnes Anderson): To approve the November 2016 minutes as written. CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment
There was no public comment.

V. Guest Presentation
Julia Yoshimoto, Project Director, Reentry Law Project/Women in Prison Project, Oregon Justice Resource Center.
Ms. Yoshimoto discussed statistics from a report on women in prison and the growing pressure to build a new women’s prison in Oregon if diversion and other options are not sufficient to reduce crowding at Coffee Creek, Oregon’s sole women’s facility. She shared policy recommendations developed by the Oregon Justice Resource Center focused on women in prison, their needs for successful reentry, and options to reduce the number of women in prison. Discussion followed. The Commission noted that it has been an active participant along with the other Advocacy Commissions in Sen. Shields’ Family Preservation Project workgroup, which focused on funding a support program for incarcerated mothers, and also conducted a research project in 2016 on best practices in support of incarcerated parents. Following discussion, the OCFW and Sen. Monnes Anderson agreed to explore the possibility of establishing a study.
group or legislative workgroup focused on strategies and practices to reduce the number of women in prison and increase successful reentry. Ms. Yoshimoto’s presentation is appended as part of the minutes.

VI. Commissioners’ Reports
Commissioner Ochs reported on the content of a workshop she attended regarding prison issues at Lewis and Clark College.
Commissioner Fisher reported that she has attended her new commissioner orientation and participated in the OAC’s Joint Health Committee meeting on health, related to housing.
Commissioner Cancel-Tirado reported on her facilitation of the OAC’s Joint Health Committee meeting which had an excellent attendance of Commissioners from the OAC’s and interested community members.
Commissioner Beas-Fitzgerald reported on her new radio talk show called Place of the People, focusing on women and women's concerns and issues. She will reach out to Ms. Yoshimoto about being a guest on the show. She is interested in working with OCFW to start a program for leadership and self-esteem for young women. Clara will explore the possibility of recording her show so the OCFW and other women’s groups can share it.
Representative Malstrom will attend the Oregon Women’s Health and Wellness Alliance (OWHAWA) meeting, which is a group of leading women legislators who meet with community groups to discuss and choose a platform of key women’s health bills that they will work to pass during long session. She serves on the House Committee on Health Care, Committee on Early Childhood, and Joint Ways and Means sub-committee for Human Services. She has submitted a number of bills.
Chair Spencer reported that she attended the Oregon Business Plan Leadership Summit and found the business perspective on prosperity very informative, along with viewpoints from foundations and government partners. Racial and gender inequalities were discussed and the need for successful education for all students statewide was a major issue. Housing and Poverty were also subjects of discussion. Chair Spencer noted that she likes the idea of bringing together the different stakeholders regarding women in prison.
Chair Spencer reminded the Commission that the Women’s Foundation of Oregon’s advocacy briefs will be released in February in time for the 2017 legislative session. She also attended the swearing in of new Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson and believes she will be a good ally for women’s issues at the county level.

VII. OCFW Old Business
A. Women Veterans and their needs: OCFW letter of support regarding new health navigator within the Oregon Department of Veteran’s Affairs. Commissioner Fisher will be the champion for this letter. Nikki requested past letters of support the OCFW has written, for reference. Commissioner Ochs volunteered to help.

B. Oregon State Library Equity Toolbox and Public Policy Playbook Research project: Chair Spencer and Lucy met with research student Jessica Bull this morning for an update on her work with the OCFW and the State Library, researching women’s issues and developing a set of policy resources with a gender equity lens focused on the priority areas of stable families including affordable childcare, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/welfare), and affordable housing. Jessica has chosen to take on financial inclusion, an emerging area of interest, looking at best practice models nationwide within TANF programs. One of the outcomes of her research will be a briefing sheet and a discussion with DHS on this topic.
C. Legislative Discussion

1. Joint AAUW Legislative Day 2/15 - Ty can make appointments with various legislators for OCFW-specific issues. Trish Garner, AAUW’s Legislative Chair, is organizing the presentations at Lobby Day and has invited Oregon’s CFO, George Naughton, to discuss the serious budget constraints that will challenge the 2017 legislature and legislative session. Adrienne, Kim and Nikki all wish to attend if their schedules permit.

2. Review OCFW’s bill list and 2017 Legislative Calendar. Ty and the OCFW reviewed the current list of bills of interest to the Commission. There will be more to come as the deadline for legislative concepts from legislators approaches in a week. At OCFW’s March 17th meeting, the Commission will review and approve an updated list of priority bills that Ty will share in advance of the meeting as bills are added.

Sen Monnes Anderson reported on her bills relating to women and family issues. She is introducing a Tobacco 21 bill, which will have its hearing 2/7. This is a public health related bill that would raise the age of permitted sale of tobacco to 21. She is also the chief sponsor of the health equity bill which will require all commercial plans to follow all ACA codes including for reproductive health needs. She noted that there are challenges to the effectiveness of the 2015 bill that prohibits firearms to domestic violence abusers. She is also the chief sponsor of a resolution acknowledging the Women of Achievement before the Senate. Senator Monnes Anderson plans to have two such resolutions this session recognizing the 2015 and 2016 Women of Achievement, setting a tradition going forward of such Senate recognitions of WOA honorees each year. She is also introducing a Senate Resolution regarding the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II because of their race, without due process of law. She wishes to connect with the coalitions of Japanese groups and OCAPIA in support of the resolution.

Ty shared the 2017 legislative calendar and reviewed it: the red boxes on the calendar indicate deadlines. Target Sine Die for end of session Friday, 6/23/17.

The Commission reviewed the list of all committee assignments which Ty provided. He will help make connection for Commissioners with committee chairs and members who are hearing bills of importance to the OCFW.

3. OAC’s Joint Legislative Committee meeting 12/6 re-cap – The Commissioners and Ty reviewed the presentations on upcoming legislation from the state agencies, Governor’s policy advisors and community partners who presented during the meeting. During the OAC’s joint legislative meeting the commissions also prepared their list of key search words which Ty has been using to compile lists of bills of interest to the individual Advocacy Commissions.

4. Joint Health Committee meeting update – Commissioner Cancel-Tirado reported that the committee had an excellent timely discussion. Hannah Rosenau was proactive and uplifting, moving forward with an ambitious policy agenda. Thanks to all who attended.

5. Bi-weekly Legislative Update call starting 2/3 - and Sen Dembrow will speak.

Ty reminded commissioners that he will again be providing every other week Legislative updates by phone on Fridays at 11am for 30 minutes. This is time for interested commissioners to join a phone discussion of legislative activity around their
key bills and remain engaged in the legislative work of the OAC’s. At the first meeting, Sen. Dembrow will provide a short training on how to be effective during session.

D. WOA 2016 Ceremony Update – Chair Spencer reported on the work going forward to honor the two candidates selected by the Commission: Nancy Campbell Mead and Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura. The date and location are under discussion with the Governor’s office, focusing on March 8th, in conjunction with the Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day. Nancy Kramer will send the press release once the date and location have been finalized. Discussion followed. Commissioner Fisher volunteered to help find donations of gifts to the honorees.

E. Approval of OCFW revised Bylaws
The Commission reviewed the revisions to the OCFW bylaws that were developed at the November meeting and have been posted at the state transparency website.

MOTION (Fisher/Olson): To approve the OCFW revised Bylaws. CARRIED.

VIII. New Business
A. Erious Johnson, DOJ Civil Rights Unit Director. Mr. Johnson was unable to attend and will be rescheduled after he confirms his schedule with the office.

B. Year in Review, Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), Top 10 Findings of 2016:
Chair Spencer shared the top ten findings of the IWPR regarding women’s issues. Discussion followed.
Dr. Spencer announced that AAUW will be sponsoring an Equal Pay Day event and is doing a social media blitz. The OACs have supported equal pay legislation in the past.

IX. Administrator’s Report
A. New State policies on Governmental Conduct - Lucy shared the new state policies by email and reviewed them in the meeting. Along with state employees, members of Oregon’s Boards and Commissions are expected to report abuse or ethical misconduct to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), through the OACO or directly to DAS.

B. OCFW’s Biennial report to the Governor and legislature - update
All staff are working on drafting the 2015-17 biennial reports to the Governor and the Legislature based on the list of topic areas approved by each Commission. Ty is preparing an overview of legislation from 2015-16 sessions. Lucy has now completed the update of the OAC’s Public Policy Research broadside for 2015-17 which include two OCFW Research projects: one on women in prison and the other on the equity policy toolkit on stable families. She will be sending the draft to all Commissioners next week for review and edits.

C. OAC’s Budget presentation before the Joint Ways and Means’ General Government Subcommittee. We do not yet know the date of the budget presentation. It could be as early as the 2nd week in February. The Chairs and Vice Chairs present the budget at its hearing and Lucy presents the budget request, which is focused on making the OAC’s policy analyst position full time. Lucy, Nancy and the OAC leaders will prepare a slide presentation for Joint Ways and Means on the work of the Commissions in Advocacy,
Research, Leadership Development and Partnership which will be shared with all Commissioners prior to the presentation.

AAUW will be asked to submit testimony in favor of the Policy Analyst's position becoming full-time. The Bus Project's support would also be welcomed.

D. Administrative paperwork – Nancy worked with Commissioners to update travel reimbursement related paperwork.

X. Good of the Order
   The next OCFW meeting March 17th, 2017, same location.
   The Women's March tomorrow. People meeting at Skidmore Fountain. This evening there is a sign making party at Lagunitas Brewing 6pm, 237 NE Broadway.

XI. Adjourn - Chair Spencer adjourned the meeting at 2:42pm by common consent.