I. Call to order – Chair Vardavas called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm. A quorum was established.

II. Adoption of the Agenda
   MOTION (Spencer/Cancel-Tirado): To adopt the agenda. CARRIED.

III. Approval of the March and May 2015 Minutes
   Chair Vardavas noted that there was no quorum at the May meeting of the OCFW and that the Commission will now be approving both the March and the May meeting minutes.
   MOTION (Malstrom/Spencer): To approve the March minutes as written. CARRIED.
   MOTION (Cancel-Tirado/Spencer): To approve the May minutes as written. CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment
   Suzanne Hansche from Elders in Action and Allies for a Healthier Oregon discussed the mutual interests between her groups and the OCFW. She is interested in exploring partnerships.

V. Election of Officers
   Chair Vardavas thanked the Commission for their support during her time as OCFW Chair and their understanding of her decision to step down from her position as Chair as she devotes more time to travel and healing from her upcoming surgery. The Commissioners heartily thanked Chair Vardavas for her leadership and applauded her.
Stephanie noted that nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair position were opened 2 weeks earlier with nominations being taken by e-mail, will now be entertained at the public meeting and closed. The nominations to date include Dr. Barbara Spencer for Chair, and Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna for Vice Chair. She called for any further nominations from the floor. There being none, nominations were closed. The nominees addressed the Commission regarding their interest and focus in serving as OCFW officers.  

The vote was called for the position of OCFW Chair. Dr. Barbara Spencer was elected Chair.  

The vote was called for the position of OCFW Vice Chair. Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna was elected as Vice Chair. 

The Chair and Vice Chair assumed their duties immediately. Chair Spencer thanked Commissioners Vardavas and Burch for their efforts over the past years and for their leadership.

VI. OCFW Old Business  
A. Committee Reports 
1. Health & Environmental Justice Committee – Commissioners Malstrom and Cancel-Tirado reported. Sheri attended the final meeting of the Oregon Women’s Health and Wellness Alliance (OWHWA) with Lucy. She also represented the OCFW testifying on a number of bills. The Chair thanked her for her good work.  

2. Women’s Economic Security (WES) Committee – Chair Spencer thanked Sen. Monnes Anderson for her leadership in the drafting of both the OCFW bills which passed. Senator Monnes Anderson gave an overview of the 2015 session and the women’s health bills and veterans’ bills she championed. It was a session that saw many wage and health bills pass that help women and their families. She feels that it has laid a solid foundation with more collaborative work to come in short session and the next long session. 

3. Legislative Committee – Commissioner Vardavas and Lucy reported that the OCFW supported 28 bills with testimony or letters of support in the 2015 session. This is more than it has ever done and is a reflection of many bills originally proposed in earlier sessions finally passing in this session. It was an historic time for the Commission to be involved and legislators noticed their participation.  

B. OCFW meeting in Corvallis  
Chair Spencer noted that OCFW has received much interest and excitement about its September meeting in Corvallis, from various women’s groups and local leaders. Vice Chair Rodriguez-Montegna facilitated a discussion with the Commission to plan what they would like their Corvallis meeting to cover and the outcomes they want. The Commission agreed that it is a time to get to know the women of Corvallis better and hear about their needs as they get to know the OCFW. Overall it increases the visibility of the OCFW outside Portland and brings diverse voices to the policy discussions of the Commission. The notes from the planning discussion are appended as part of the minutes. 

C. Governor’s Office Report: Janet Soto - Economic & Business Equity  
Janet Soto reported that she has been meeting with the other OAC’s to get acquainted around her role on equity in contracting and small business. She would like to meet with OCFW WES Committee on the issues women face in business. This is a priority for Governor Brown who is also looking forward to her meeting with the OAC Chairs and
legislators later in July. She invited the Commissioners to connect with her at janet.soto@oregon.gov anytime on their key issues. The Governor is approaching Equity as an integrated component of her administration, modelling doing the work of diversity, inclusion, and equity work internally first for all state agencies and then sharing her vision of equity within her administration.

D. NEW Leadership Oregon (NLO) scholarships
Eight scholarships were awarded by the OCFW. The recipients come from across the state. Lucy was at the Capitol with Emlyn when the NLO class was greeted by the Senate. Chair Spencer attended their reception that evening and was thanked individually by each of the scholarship recipients. The OCFW scholarships made a remarkable difference in the lives of 8 diverse women.

E. Social Media
Commissioners were reminded to ask their networks to like OCFW’s page, to send photos and short post-able reports when representing the Commission in the community, and to follow the OCFW FB page regularly.

VII. OCFW New Business
A. Process for a Commissioner check-in/outreach
The Chair will be contacting each Commissioner to check in on how they are doing in their OCFW work and to ask if there is any support they may need.

B. Research report on incarcerated families
Emlyn Foxen, OCFW’s research intern, reported on her work studying the needs of incarcerated parents and the policy implications. She is partnering with the State Library Reference Office and collaborating with OCBA, Department of Corrections, and YWCA’s Family Preservation Program to gather essential data, do a literature review, and consider policy implications. She has chosen 3 areas of focus:

- Prison nurseries - for children to live with
- Foster care laws hurt incarcerated parents
- Programs that other states have run for incarcerated fathers - looking at what other states have in this area.

She has completed an Oregon legislative review of related bills and trends in legislation over the past 3 sessions. The draft report will be completed in early August and ready for review by a reactor panel and the OCFW.

The Chair recognized Gary Sims from the Department of Corrections who had joined the audience at the meeting. He thanked the OCFW and Ms. Foxen for their interest and good work on the status of incarcerated parents in Oregon and invited Emlyn to meet with him in Salem to further discuss issues and answer questions for her research. Gary also noted that he is ready to schedule a visit for the OCFW to Coffee Creek Correctional Institute in September or whenever they wish to come. The Chair will work with the Commission and Lucy to schedule it.

C. Status of the Friends of the OCFW
The Chair and Commissioner Vardavas reported that the Friends board members have met to consider their priorities going forward now that the Oregon Women Research Project has been taken on by the Women’s Foundation of Oregon. After discussion, all
the Friends decided they wish to pursue other interests and voted to resign effective July 24th with a recommendation to close the Friends of the OCFW. Dr. Spencer has asked them to contact the SOS' office about the necessary steps to close the organization. This will include distributing the final balance of funds in the Friends account to the OCFW. The report on the final balance will be among the Friends’ final reports. Commissioner Vardavas suggested the joint OAC’s consider changing the underlying charge of the Friends organization to serve all 4 of the Advocacy Commissions.

D. Collaboration opportunities
The Commission discussed the opportunities to collaborate with women’s groups in Corvallis as an outcome of their meeting there.

E. Recruitment of new OCFW commissioners
With Jeanne Burch retiring from the Commission there are now 3 open seats on the OCFW. The next round of Executive Appointments Interest forms are due in August and then again in October. The Commission discussed its work to attract diverse interest in service on the OCFW including age, gender preference, geographical location, and race/ethnicity. The goal is to fill all empty seats on the OCFW in the fall.

F. Legislative summary and wrap-up
The OCFW reviewed their legislative work for the 2015 session with 21 individual bills supported with testimony or letter of support! That is the largest legislative slate the Commission has ever supported and represents a remarkable session for women’s issues and equity in Oregon. Senator Monnes-Anderson worked with the OCFW’s Committee on Women’s Economic Security to propose 2 bills on wage equity in contracting and the use of sick leave for domestic violence survivors, both of which passed.

Senator Monnes Anderson reviewed a number of bills addressing women’s issues which passed with her support including:
SB 525 - Making it easier for law enforcement to confiscate firearms from abusers.
SB 79 - OR women's veteran coordinator position - regarding abuse of women in the military.
SB 478 - Toxics in children's toys will be banned.
SB 759 - Students who report sexual assault on campus will receive special services.
Public health warnings for marijuana use for pregnant women will need to wait for a future session to pass.

G. Ratification of e-votes for 2015 bills supported by OCFW for testimony
The Commission reviewed and ratified bills which they supported for testimony and letters of support using e-voting between regular Commission meetings between the period of March – July, 2015. The bills were read into the record:
1. SB 187A - Establishes Oregon Student Information Protection Act
2. SB 215 – Future of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB)
3. SB 445 - Requires medical marijuana facilities and retailers to post notice of harmful effects of marijuana on pregnant women
4. SB 454A – Employers to implement paid sick time for employees
5. SB 478 - High Priority Chemicals of Concern for Children's Health
6. SB 491 - Requirements in public contracting for compliance with pay equity provisions of state law
7. 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 SB 525A – prohibits possession of firearm or ammunition by person who is subject to restraining order
8. SB 759 & SB 759A – Students who report sexual assault receive necessary services
9. SB 939 – Create programs to assist children of incarcerated parents
10. HB 2002 – OR CJC to receive and record profiling complaints
11. HB 2006 – Illegal to pay different wage rates for employees of opposite sex who hold equivalent jobs
12. HB 2007A – Employee can inquire about or disclose wage information without penalty
13. HB 2600 – Requires continuation of group health insurance coverage for employee on family leave
14. HB 2776 – Protective orders for victims of domestic violence
15. HB 2934A – OHA basic health plan
16. HB 2968B - Convene work group to produce report on how State School Fund expenditures relate to educational achievements of students from families in poverty
17. HB 3308A – HECC to address disparities in higher education among communities of color.
18. Implementing Measure 91 – Control, legislation and taxation of marijuana

MOTION (Vardavas/Malstrom): To ratify the electronic votes of the OCFW to support the bills as read into the record. CARRIED.

H. Grant opportunities for the OCFW
Commissioner Cancel-Tirado discussed her interest in opportunities for funded policy research and policy making. Discussion followed on community engagement and partnership around choosing topics for research. Dr. Cancel-Tirado will learn more about grant opportunities and report back on what she learns.

I. OCFW’s e-commerce portal
The Commission considered ways to use the OCFW’s e-commerce portal at their website http://www.oregon.gov/women/pages/donation.aspx for an e-campaign to donate $30 for the 30 years the OCFW has existed or some engaging way to allow the OCFW’s constituency statewide to donate in support of the Commission’s work.

J. Other business
Suzanne Hensche from Elders in Action addressed the OCFW on their interest in collaborating on legislative advocacy for common issues. Elders in Action and others have supported many of the bills the OCFW is supporting especially around health and other women’s issues including housing, environment, and safety. Chair Spencer asked for a follow-up meeting with representatives from the different women’s organizations she represents including the OCFW. She thanked Ms. Hensche for her interest.

VIII. Administrator’s Report
A. **Final OACO Budget** - HB 5001 for 2015-17 was signed into law in June and includes:
   - A new permanent .5 Policy Analyst position and
   - The permanent reclassification upgrade of the Executive Support Specialist from a 1 to a 2.
Lucy thanked Senator Monnes Anderson for her support in this historic addition to the OACO. The Senator noted that the Commissions were a strong voice for the staffing addition throughout the budgeting process and congratulated them for this budget win.

B. **Hiring process of .5 FTE Policy Analyst** - Lucy will share the position description with Commissioners and ask them to share it widely. DAS HR will receive all the applications, perform the initial screening, and forward the viable applicants to the OACO. Lucy will use the same process used in hiring the Executive Assistant in which each of the OAC’s have a Commissioner on the hiring panel to choose the applicants receiving an interview and conduct the first interview with Lucy, choosing those that will receive a 2nd interview. Lucy hopes to have the policy analyst hired by end of September.

**IX. Good of the Order**
Next OCFW meeting Wednesday, September 9th, in Corvallis.

**X. Adjourn**
The meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm by common consent.

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**Appendix A**

Planning for the OCFW meeting in Corvallis, September 2015
Facilitated discussion at July 17, OCFW meeting

**Meeting outcomes**
1. More visibility
2. Know the issues in the Corvallis area for women
3. Known for talking with/engaging the public
4. Get local organizations involved in our process/strategies
5. Build our legislative agenda for 2016 (17?) with talking points
6. OCFW committees: Engage local women to serve as advisors to OCFW (health, economic security, and legislative): Add an interest form in meeting packet
7. Recruit for open OCFW seats: include an application form in meeting packets

**OCFW Agenda for Corvallis- Draft**
1. Introduction to the OCFW
2. 3 OCFW committee presentations
3. Outside presentations- OCFW’s ask: partnering opportunities
   - City council president presents on Linn/Benton county outlook
   - Benton County Health Dept. (Doris will invite)
   - Soroptimists
   - Family services: Health Equity Alliance
   - Polk County (Doris will invite)
- Casa Latina
- Local legislators (Barbara will prepare an invitation)

**Promotion of the OCFW meeting in Corvallis:**
1. Social media
2. Local media
3. Develop a list of local organizations to invite

**Parking lot of other good ideas:**
1. Travel to other parts of Oregon to hear from rural/diverse groups of women
2. Get a list of Legislative Task Force/Workgroups and see if their work align with OCFW committees’ work
   - Health: Doris and Sheri
   - Economic Security: Barbara
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
   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)
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.

**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.
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.
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.