MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women
Friday, July 18, 2014
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Room 1A
Portland, OR 97232

ATTENDANCE
Chair: Stephanie Vardavas
Vice Chair: Jeanne Burch
Commissioners: Barbara Spencer, Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna, Mariahm Stephenson,
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson (phone)
Absent: Rep Komp, Stephanie Swanson, Megan Jacquot
Guests: Krista MacDowell, Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO); Katharine Quince,
Friends of the OCFW; Gary Sims, Director of Diversity and Inclusion,
Oregon Department of Corrections

I. Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 12:14pm. A quorum was established.

II. Adoption of the Agenda
Adopted by common consent.

III. Approval of the May 2014 Minutes
MOTION (Burch/Spencer): To approve the minutes as written. CARRIED

IV. Public Comment
Krista MacDowell introduced herself.

V. OCFW Old Business
A. OCFW Social media update – Stephanie V.
Chair Vardavas encouraged Commissioners to post items to the OCFW Facebook page
and have friends and colleagues like the page.

She noted that Leanne Littrell DiLorenzo asked the OCFW to support the ERA ballot
measure. Chair Vardavas explained that the OCFW is statutorily not able take positions
on ballot measures though individuals may do so in their personal time.

Lucy announced that the OACO will have a work-study student in September, Laura
Aguon, who will support community engagement for all 4 Commissions, including
Facebook. Laura will begin her work at OACO by meeting with the Chairs/Vice Chairs to develop her work plan for each Commission.

B. Committee Reports

**Women's Economic Security (WES) Committee:**
Members: Barbara Spencer, Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna, Jeanne Burch.
Barbara and Jessica reported that the committee is looking at models of economic security policy work from other states and cities including Minnesota and City of Boston.

The Committee reviewed the priorities and basics of WES in Minnesota where they developed legislation called the WES packet. The Committee also is connecting with a group in Boston taking action on economic security for women called Boston Talent.

The OCFW WES Committee goal is to provide information and policy advocacy options to the Commission in several key areas:
1. Gender Payback – BOLI’s Civil Rights Council is interested in this.
2. Expand access to high-quality childcare.
3. Encourage young women to high paying non-traditional jobs. This could include resources at the OCFW website.
4. Help older women to be economically secure.

The Committee is looking to see what other interested parties would like to partner with the OCFW on this work and will bring ideas to the Commission. The next meeting is of the August 20th, exact details to be determined.

The Commission thanked the WES Committee for its report. Chair Vardavas noted the Women's Equality Coalition also hopes to contribute data and analysis on economic status of women which may help the committee’s work. Their timeframe is currently one year or more out.

Jessica and Barbara both expressed interest in periodically attending the Women's Equality Coalition meetings to support their work and avoid duplication. Meetings on 2nd Friday at 9:30am - 11am at YWCA. All OCFW Commissioners are welcome.

**Health Committee:**
The committee has not yet met, but Stephanie and Mariahm are reviewing the application for a new member to the OCFW, Dr. Doris Cancel-Tirado who is an expert on public health and women’s health issues. Their first meeting with Dr. Cancel-Tirado will be late July or first week of August. If she seems a good fit with the OCFW, Doris would be asked to serve on the Health Committee.

**Legislative Committee:**
The committee has not yet met.

MOTION (Rodriquez-Montegna/Spencer): To accept the Commission committee reports. CARRIED.

C. Report from the Friends of the Commission for Women
Katharine Quince reported on recent work of the Friends. They are working to add new members this summer: Susan Stoltenberg from YWCA will be joining the Friends in July and they are hoping to have 2 new board members in August including the ED from PDX Women's Crisis Line.

The Friends are completing the $107K proposal to MMT for the 2nd phase of the Status of Oregon Women research with a timeframe by PSU researchers of December, 2015. The proposed research will include 100 indicators regarding status of women and girls in Oregon on key aspects: demographics, earning, health and well-being, violence and safety, and others. Data will be broken down by gender, age, race, ethnicity by county. Stephanie and Katherine will send the indicators to the OCFW and the office.

Stephanie and the OCFW thanked Katharine for her report. She noted that the data can support initiatives for legislation and administrative policy for the OCFW and its partners to pursue as it becomes available. The funded report is intended to be a driver for public policy action and change.

Katharine was asked to forward the proposal to the OCFW. Jessica and Barbara will attend the next Coalition meeting. They are working on a values statement, and membership structure.

VI. OCFW New Business

A. Elections for OCFW Chair and Vice Chair

Nomination for Chair
Chair Vardavas opened nominations from the floor for Chair.
Vice Chair Burch nominated Stephanie Vardavas as Chair.
Hearing no further nominations from the floor nominations were closed for Chair.
Stephanie gratefully accepted her nomination for Chair.

Nomination for Vice Chair
Chair Vardavas opened nominations from the floor for Vice Chair.
Commissioner Spencer nominated Jeanne Burch for Vice Chair.
Commissioner Stephenson nominated Barbara Spencer for Vice Chair.
Hearing no further nominations for Vice Chair, nominations were closed.
Commissioner Spencer respectfully declined her nomination.
Vice Chair Burch gratefully accepted her nomination for Vice Chair.

Election of Officers
The Chair called the vote for Vice Chair. Jeanne Burch was elected unanimously.
The Vice Chair called the vote for Chair. Stephanie Vardavas was elected unanimously.

The Officers took up their duties immediately.

B. The Chair welcomed Gary Sims to the meeting of the OCFW. Gary is the Director of Diversity for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC.) He thanked the OCFW for sending questions to him after his discussion with the Commission last month. He has a number of colleagues working on providing the answers. The DOC Director, Colette Peters shared her appreciation for the interest of the OCFW and is looking forward to meeting them in the future to discuss the issues of women in corrections. Also the Superintendent of
Coffee Creek correctional facility is glad they are coming for a tour soon. It was agreed the fall would be best, early or middle September or October would be best. He would like some target areas the Commissioners are interested in. For example 3rd shift people could be invited to address the group as part of their meeting.

The Chair suggested the OCFW look back at questions generated, select priorities. Everyone wants to be sure the meeting is productive. Discussion followed.

C. Errious Johnson, Director of Civil Rights Unit, Oregon Department of Justice
Mr. Johnson was unable to attend the meeting today, and plans to attend the September OCFW meeting.

D. Discussion of recognition of common law marriage in Oregon
Following a call to the office of a woman engaged in a long-term relationship who was seeking resources and a plea to propose a law in Oregon protecting common law marriage, the OCFW considered their response. After discussion, the Commission felt that there are so many benefits to marriage that part of their response must be around education on the legal benefits of marriage for women involved in long term relationships. They noted that the trend in states recognizing common law marriage is downward. The Commission suggested that the caller go to her state legislator’s office to assist her and to check with the YWCA was suggested as a resource as well.

E. Discussion of a newsletter
The Chair discussed the potential for the four OAC’s to have a joint newsletter covering policy and research and other issues of interest. After discussion, the Commission agreed that this is worth pursuing at the Joint meeting of the Commissions in August and asked Stephanie to raise the issue at the meeting.

F. Discussion of locations other than Portland-area for future OCFW meetings
The Commission considered locations for meeting outside of Portland. Corvallis is of interest, as is the coast, specifically Coos Bay.

Meeting in the Corvallis area would help make come great connections there like reaching out to the Women's Center at Corvallis, connecting with student leaders and public health institutions regarding women's issues among others. Annabelle Jaramillo is one of the OCFW’s WOA honorees who serves on the Benton County Board.

MOTION: (Spencer/Burch): To host a meeting of the OCFW in the next 12 months in Corvallis. (Spencer/Burch) CARRIED.

G. Discussion about hosting film screenings
Chair Vardavas discussed her interest in planning film screening series in collaboration with other Advocacy Commissions. It would be an opportunity to engage community in discussions of primary interest to the Commissions, either monthly or quarterly at some of the neighborhood theaters, like the Hollywood or Clinton Street Theaters. She will discuss the idea with the Chairs of the other Commissions and report back.

H. Other business
Nominations are open for WOA. None received so far. Commissioners were encouraged to solicit nominations.
Katharine Quince reviewed venue availability for the WOA. Castaway has April 25th available, $4,500. WFC not available 4/4 and 5/16. Soft hold on Convention Center, $5,400 catering minimum (does not include labor or gratuity), May 2nd, no fee that way. Ticket price will go up for 2015. Decision was made to focus on May 2nd.

MOTION (Burch/Spencer): To adopt May 2nd at the Convention center for date and venue for WOA 2015. CARRIED.

VII. Administrator’s Report
A. Financial report - Lucy reviewed the June financial report. It is on track and there is projected to be a modest amount of General Fund remaining at the end of the biennium next June.

B. Review and approval of Agency Request Budget (ARB) and Policy Option Packages (POPs) - BDV002 and POPs budget.
Lucy reviewed the Agency Request Budget and Policy Option Packages (POP’s) amounts being proposed to the Governor’s Office for the OACO 2015-17 biennial budget for a total 2015-17 budget of $1,020,573 General Fund and $42,189 Other Funds. The POP’s include the 3 new staff positions (policy analyst, community affairs, and office assistant) the OAC’s have considered and developed over the past several months along with a reclassification of the existing Executive Assistant position. Discussion followed.

MOTION (Rodriquez-Montegna/Spencer): To approve 2015-17 OACO ARB budget and POP’s as presented. CARRIED.

C. Key Performance Measures (KPMs)
Lucy reviewed the 15 KPM’s that the OACO will be using this year in its report to the legislature on quality performance. 12 of the measures are new this biennium. The legislature and the Legislative Fiscal Office set those measures for each state agency. The KPM reports for each state agency are due in the Governor’s office in the Fall to be included in the Governor’s Recommended Budget to the legislature.

D. Upcoming joint meeting of the full Commissions and Commissioner training, 8/19.
Tuesday, August 19th is first statutory joint meeting of the OACs. Training in the morning. Please RSVP for the training and/or the business meeting in the afternoon. Carpooling is available, please contact the office.

E. Update on Trafficking internship
Lucy reported that the public policy internship is moving forward between the OAC’s/US Attorney’s Office/Governor’s Office on Sexual trafficking of children of color and women. A Master’s Degree student in the Hatfield School is reviewing and compiling information on the pimps convicted for trafficking. The report will be available in the fall.

Discussion followed. Commissioners were interested to know if trafficked individuals extracted from trafficking either for labor or for sex are victimized. At the time the report is available, the Commission asked that a number of stakeholders including the Hon. Amanda Marshall, the OAC champions for trafficking, Senator Monnes-Anderson and other interested Commissioners meet to review the report and consider the policy implications of it.
Lucy will reach out to the US Attorney’s Office when the report becomes available and organize that meeting.

VIII. Good of the Order
A. Next OCFW meeting September 19th, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Room 1A, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, OR 97232
B. New Commissioner applications are due July 31st (this date reflects the Executive Appointments’ office preference that applications be received 5 to 6 weeks before the Senate Confirmation hearing for new commissioners).
C. Other announcements. None.

IX. Adjourn
MOTION (Rodriguez-Montegna/Spencer): To adjourn. CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 3:07.