MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW)
Friday, July 21, 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, Nikki Fisher, Dr. Adrienne Ochs, Representative Sheri Malstrom
Guests: Gary Sims, Oregon Department of Corrections D & I
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to order - Chair Spencer called the meeting to order at 12:20pm. A quorum was established.

II. Approval of the March 2017 Minutes and May 2017 Notes
MOTION (Olson/Malstrom): To approve the March 2017 minutes as written. CARRIED.
MOTION (Malstrom/Cancel-Tirado): To approve the May meeting notes as written. CARRIED.

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

IV. Public Comment - There was no public comment.

V. Commissioners’ Reports
A. Commissioners’ Reports
Commissioner Fisher submitted testimony for several of OCFW’s bills and testified in Salem during the 2017 legislative session.

Commissioner Cancel-Tirado attended the Governor's reception for Latino and Hispanic leaders at Mahonia Hall. She did some excellent networking and raised awareness about the OCFW. She also met Dr. David Rothwell, an Assistant Professor at Oregon State University. He is a researcher who studies poverty and asset/wealth inequality. He may be a good policy research contact for the OCFW in the future, given that prosperity is a priority for the OCFW.
Vice Chair Olson testified in Salem on bills and was invited to speak on behalf of the OCFW at the Carpenters’ Union headquarters in Portland about HB 3060A, Contract Anti-Discrimination. She explained the bill, talked about pay equity and the retirement savings plan, and raised awareness about the OCFW. She also traveled to Israel to attend a women's leadership intensive conference presented by the Schusterman Foundation, called the Reality Program. The group spoke to a Holocaust survivor, and ultra-orthodox female entrepreneurs.

Representative Malstrom received a proposal of marriage on the House floor at the close of session. Congratulations, Representative Malstrom! She supported the Women’s Reproductive Health bill and carried the Women of Achievement’s (WOA) Senate Concurrent Resolutions (SCR) for the House and Senate. She sits on the Health Care Committee (being a member of the Health Care Committee was the inspiration for her running for office), and also the Early Childhood and Family Supports Committee, and Ways and Means. She noted that committee work takes up a considerable amount of her time. She has been building relationships among the legislators and enjoying her new role.

Chair Spencer and Lucy met with Scott Ekblad, Executive Director of the Oregon Office of Rural Health (OORH) at OHSU. The OORH looks at gender issues and aging and presents an annual forum on aging in April. They also work with AARP. They have identified the lack of medical practitioners in all areas in rural Oregon communities. Many areas rely on volunteer emergency health workers for basic healthcare. Tina Castenada, from the Aging in the Gorge Alliance in Hood River, is also interested in connecting with the OCFW. Barbara shared a map indicating that most of eastern Oregon are considered frontier counties (a frontier county is a sparsely populated rural area with a population density of six or fewer people per square mile). The OCFW looks forward to working with Scott and the OORH on future public policy research projects.

B. Travel reimbursement paperwork – Chair Spencer asked Commissioners to sign the travel tracking sheet so as to be reimbursed correctly. Nancy provided details on beginning points and end points for travel.

VI. OCFW Old Business
A. Elections for OCFW Chair and Vice Chair
Nominee for Chair: Dr. Barbara Spencer
Nominee for Vice Chair: Kimberly Olson
Nominations for these offices have remained open since the May meeting until a quorum is present. Chair Spencer called for additional nominations for Chair and Vice Chair, 3 times for each office. No other nominations were made and nominations were closed. Barbara called for the election of Chair, with herself as the nominee. The vote was unanimous in favor.
Barbara called for the election of Vice Chair with Kim Olson as the nominee. The vote was unanimous in favor.
Chair Spencer and Vice Chair Olson thanked Commissioners for their support. They began their duties immediately.

B. Review of OCFW Summary
Commissioners reviewed the OCFW’s new Executive Summary of their Biennial Report, professionally designed by a woman-owned business and printed in full color on heavy stock. **MOTION (Olson/Cancel-Tirado): To approve the OCFW Summary for 2015-17. CARRIED.**

C. Legislative Discussion
1. End of session review of OCFW bills and looking ahead
The OCFW provided testimony and support for 18 bills this session – a record – and set a standard for the other OACs. Every Commissioner wrote and submitted testimony, also a first. The Family Preservation Project was funded in the Christmas Tree bill, but has yet to find a fiscal home within State Government.
Lucy briefly touched on the OACO's budget bill: none of the OACO’s Policy Option Packages were approved, although the eight legislators sitting on Joint Ways and Means spoke favorably of the OACs, and spoke of their appreciation of the work of the OACs and how important they are for Oregon. The OACO’s next budget will be drafted in 2018, and Lucy is hopeful that two years from now the OACO will have a full-time Policy Analyst.

2. Tax and Revenue Reform
Revenue at the state level has been uneven and plays havoc with the state’s budget each biennium. Despite much effort on the part of legislators, the business community did not come to the table with a useful proposal to increase corporate taxes and this topic will not be broached again until long session in 2019. Hospital providers offered a joint willingness for a provider tax so as to take advantage of federal dollars available.
Rep Malstrom added that a large portion of other bills were put aside because of the strong focus on revenue. Hundreds of bills that would usually be easily passed were not because of this.

3. Transportation package
Legislators went across Oregon over the course of 18 months to talk with residents about transportation needs. The Transportation bill had bipartisan support. A gas tax was ultimately passed, and there is talk about referendum regarding the gas tax. More accountability was put in place for ODOT, delaying funding of projects until they are fully fleshed out. This places a larger responsibility on the Oregon Transportation Commission.

4. Ratify OCFW’s e-votes in support of testimony during the 2017 Legislative Assembly:
   i. SC 27 – Recognition of Women of Achievement 2016, testimony and floor letter
   ii. HB 3087 – Paid Family Leave
   iii. SB 242 – Family Preservation Project
   iv. SB 241 – Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents
   v. HB 2004A – Renters’ rights
   vi. HB 2005A – Pay Equity
   vii. HB 3060A – Contract anti-discrimination language
   viii. HB 3078 – Safety and Savings Act
   ix. SB 249 – Vacate prostitution convictions for victims of trafficking
   x. SB 250 – Affirmative defense for prostitution
   xi. SCR 2 – Women of Achievement 2015
VII. New Business

A. Review of OCFW 2015-17 Biennium Achievements and discussion of potential 2017-19 Biennium plans

Vice Chair Olson led Commissioners in a discussion about where they would like the OCFW to focus in the new biennium. She invited Commissioners to consider what the impetus was for them to join the OCFW. Their answers included a realization around the lack of reasonable paid family leave; as a stepping stone to serving in the legislature; a longstanding interest in issues facing Latinas’ and women’s rights; the disparities of rural communities and systemic disparities in general; giving back to the women’s community; concern for young daughters and the world they will inherit; and the attacks on women’s reproductive rights.

Commissioners next discussed their expectations of serving on the OCFW and how they have been met. They agreed that the OCFW meetings are well run and that they feel the loss of former Policy Analyst Ty Schwoeffermann, who made learning about the inner workings of government easier. Commissioners have strong interest in writing more bills to address the significant disparities women face in the OCFW’s strategic priority areas. Crafting two bills that passed in the 2015 session, working with Senator Monnes Anderson and former Representative Komp, was a highlight and there is strong interest in writing more bills relevant to improving women’s issues. They have come to understand that this process takes time, they are volunteer members, and the office is understaffed. The group discussed the reality of developing new legislation: it will require a different level of commitment from Commissioners. They agreed that they would like to have future meetings include time for a work session, rather than Commissioners working solo and then reporting out at meetings. It will be important for the group to define terms such as “justice” and what it means to each person. They touched briefly on ideas to streamline the process of writing and subsequently editing testimony and decided that for future testimony in support of others’ bills the staff will send testimony for review, incorporate all edits received, and leave it to the chair to have final approval of the content. Adopting consensus has also decreased the number of emails received which is helpful.

In 2018 the OCFW will identify one or two topics to be researched and developed into bills. The focus will now include developing their own bills with legislators, while being selective on advocacy of others’ bills. Selecting partners for bills being proposed by the OCFW will happen later in the process. Topics of interest include paid family leave, women’s economic security and incarcerated mothers and
women. Chair Spencer, OCBA Commissioner Robin Morris Collin and Lucy will meet with Rep Williamson, a champion for the rights of incarcerated women, later this summer. There is also an OCFW candidate, Julia Yoshimoto, who is passionate about reform in this area.

The OCFW has found partnering with the other Advocacy Commissions to be mutually beneficial and will propose at the Annual Joint meeting that the Commissions develop bills together.

The OACO has been perpetually understaffed, which limits the potential breadth of the OCFW’s activity. The question was asked: Can a grant be used to hire a staff person? A grant would be considered Other Funds and the OACs have a combined cap of expending $20K of Other Funds per biennium. This cap can be raised if the legislature’s Emergency Board approves it. Another option might be the OCFW partnering with OHSU (or some other organization eligible to receive grants). In this option, OHSU would apply for and receive a grant to hire someone to work on an identified project and OACO might provide the office space for the researcher.

B. Potential OCFW Partners Discussion/WFO agreement
Commissioners discussed the different reasons and models for partnering with other organizations, and were asked who they would like to see as partners and what contacts they have. Commissioners can submit names in advance and/or bring names to the next meeting. A state agency can be a partner. Lucy briefly explained the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affair’s (OCHA) 3 new successful public policy research internships on mental health disparities for Latinos, a crisis in Oregon, and their new partnership with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Department of Human Services (DHS). Chair Alberto Moreno and Lucy met with OHA and DHS Director’s/Leadership who have made their relevant data available to the interns. Each intern is focused on a different aspect of this crisis, using different methods (analysis, survey, snowball and traditional interviews), and are supervised and mentored by an OCHA Commissioner as well as one of the DHS or OHA research staff. OCHA is pleased with how the projects are proceeding.

OCHA is pioneering the use of the Policy Arc model, which first identifies an important public policy issue need in the community that is underserved, determines possible relevant partners, conducts research and analysis and develops policy recommendations to share with legislators, over a period of time, which could be several years. They also identified legislators who care about the work being done.

The OCFW has supported the Center for Women’s Leadership (CWL) New Leadership Oregon program and is interested in developing a Memorandum of Understanding with them. An MOU focuses on common goals and outcomes on specific subjects between two or more organizations. The OCFW could consider choosing 4 possible partners, have an MOU with each organization and have the subject matter dictate which partner is most applicable. The YWCA could be a community partner, with plans for an MOU. They could build on OCHA’s research agreement with OHA: OHA is interested in rural health, and based on OCHA’s success, the OCFW could propose approaching OHA on a rural health project.
Commissioners discussed the upcoming hire of the part-time OPA3. While the prior OPA3 focused on legislative advocacy, the Commissioners are interested in having the new OPA3 focus on public policy research projects. Staff time is required when the OAC’s offer for-credit internships to assure all requirements and outcomes are met, to coordinate all the necessary meetings with partners and mentoring legislators with the interns during the research, and to supervise the interns.

C. Proposed revisions to Women of Achievement (WOA) awards
Barbara, Kim, Lucy and Nancy met to consider focusing and simplifying the Women of Achievement awards. The group carefully considered: “What is the goal of the awards?”; how the awards can promote the OCFW's work; and simplifying the awards ceremony given the limited capacity of the OACO.
Barbara discussed the proposed changes: The initial announcement about the WOA nominations will be one page. Barbara and Nancy will develop a new mailing list to increase the diversity of the pool of nominees. Nominations will open September 1 and close October 15. A nomination will now require 2 letters of recommendation, with the option of including articles and other supporting documents. The application of a nominee who is not chosen will no longer roll to following year. If a submitted nomination is incomplete the nominator will be contacted and asked to update the nomination.
Nominators will be asked to select a category for their nominee’s accomplishments, and the categories reflect the OCFW’s work in seven strategic priority areas. Barbara thanked Kim for her considerable efforts in developing the criteria. Kim requested a solid review of her proposed criteria. The awards will now be category-oriented, as opposed to lifetime achievement. Wording will also be developed to include younger, emerging leaders. The words “in Oregon” will be added to clarify that the awards are for Oregon women, in Oregon.
The winners would sit with their Senators and be recognized, rather than having an awards ceremony with the Governor. Nancy will contact Senator Monnes Anderson’s office to discuss how a resolution is proposed in short session when each legislator is permitted no more than 2 bills, and report back to Chair Spencer.

D. Preparing for OACs appointing role for Ethnic Studies Advisory Group (HB 2845)
The Ethnic Studies bill, HB 2845, passed in 2017 after much advocacy, and discussion amongst legislators. This is a big win for communities of color and women. The OACs and OACO are responsible for appointing 7 members of the Ethnic Studies Standards Advisory Group which will be convened by ODE in the fall. The OCFW will appoint two members, one that will represent the Commissions and on that will represent the LGBTQ community. Representative Malstrom noted that 9 of the 10 legislators supporting this bill are freshman legislators.

E. OAC’s Annual Joint meeting 10/6/17 I Salem from 9:30am - 3pm
1. Planning Committee report – The Committee will meeting again in August. They discussed advocacy and will have a discussion at a future planning committee meeting regarding the OAC’s and intersectionality.

2. Hold regular OCFW meeting same day? After discussion the Commission decided it approves moving the Regular September meeting of the OCFW to October 6th over lunch.

VIII. Administrator’s Report
A. Hiring for OPA3 position at OACO – Lucy plans to hire in October, and will know more in September after she receives the OACO’s legislatively approved line item budget.
B. OACO approved budget for 2017-19 – There was an 8% cut of all agencies’ budgets, and the OACO’s reduction was mostly back filled with an addition of funds in the “Christmas Tree” bill.
C. Reimbursements & per diems have all been submitted. Contact Nancy if you have questions.
D. Submit request to use this room in PSOB for 2018? Yes, Commissioners would like to continue to meet in room 612. The room is now equipped with a MondoPad and Nancy will learn about the Skype for Business videoconferencing.

IX. Good of the Order
A. The next OCFW meeting is over lunch in Salem on Friday, October 6, as part of the annual Joint meeting of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions.

X. Adjourn - Chair Spencer adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.