MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women
Friday, September 16, 2016, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
800 NE Oregon Street, Room 612, Portland OR 97232

ATTENDANCE:
Chair: Dr. Barbara Spencer
Vice Chair: Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna
Commissioners: Clara Beas-Fitzgerald, Dr. Doris Cancel-Tirado, Kim Olson (phone), Stephanie Vardavas
Absent: Sheri Malstrom, Representative Komp, Senator Monnes-Anderson
Guests: Suzanne Hansche, Allies for A Healthier Oregon (AHO); Trish Garner, AAUW; Dr. Lisa Dodson, Researcher; Lisa Wittroff, PSU
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann

I. Call to order – Chair Dr. Barbara Spencer called the meeting to order at 12:05pm and made introductions. A quorum was established.

II. Approval of the agenda and the July 2016 Minutes
MOTION (Vardavas/Beas-Fitzgerald): To accept both as written. CARRIED.

III. Public Comment - Susanne Hansche talked about the upcoming We Can Do Better conference on 10/11.

IV. Guest Presenter
A. Making College Count Initiative – Dr. Lisa Dodson, Brandeis University and Lisa Wittroff, PSU Director of Services for Students with Children, presented on their work to improve funding for childcare for students. A large percentage of students attending PSU and other schools across Oregon are parents and a number of these students would be eligible for a federally funded program through TANF that helps parents who are furthering their educations afford childcare. There are several difficulties and barriers to using this TANF benefit, that include:
   1. The inadequately small allocation of funds currently available for childcare for student parents within Oregon TANF and
   2. The inability of Oregon to apply for potentially available additional Federal funds for Student parents and related childcare due to lack of data and waiting lists.

This situation has led to a number of DHS administrative measures created as a means to control outlay from the small fund while serving as many, though small number, of eligible students as possible given the size of the fund, but that function as barriers to needed participation in and growth of the TANF student childcare program:
• Inadequate payments available to each student who successfully applies for the benefit due to the excessively narrow parameters set by Oregon DHS to determine the amount of the benefit.
• An artificially low cap on the number of students receiving the benefit used as a method to control outlay from the small TANF funds.
• Large number of students discouraged from or unable to apply due to the unwillingness of DHS to maintain a waiting list, which is considered to be an administrative burden on the part of the state.
• The inability of Oregon to apply for available additional funds for student childcare potentially available from the Federal Department of Education which require a waiting list to be maintained as documentation for additional funds for childcare.

The OCFW thanked Dr. Dodson and Ms. Wittroff for their analysis of potential for growth and barriers to participation within the TANF student childcare benefit. The Commissioners are supportive but noted that there are several significant efforts on affordable childcare in the upcoming legislative session that may take their attention in the short term. In the longer term working with DHS, OCFW included, may open ways to increase this benefit for Oregon’s student parents’ childcare needs. They invited the presenters to keep the OCFW involved as they build a coalition to support this TANF expansion.

V. OCFW Old Business
A. OCFW Officer Nominations
Chair Spencer opened nominations from the floor for Chair. Barbara indicated that she is willing to continue in the role of Chair. She requested other nominations from the floor, three times. There were no further nominations.

Chair Spencer opened nominations from the floor for Vice Chair. Dr. Spencer nominated Kim Olson for Vice Chair. There were no further nominations. Both nominees accepted their nominations.

The Officer elections of Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the OCFW’s November meeting.

B. Vote on Women’s Foundation of Oregon Partnership
The Commission reviewed the appended statement they have prepared with the Women’s Foundation of Oregon outlining their partnership around research and policy in Oregon affecting women and girls. Discussion followed.
MOTION (Rodriguez-Gonzalez/Beas-Fitzgerald): To approve the partnership between the OCFW and the Women’s Foundation. CARRIED.

C. Commissioner Reports
Kim Olson - Attended meeting of AAUW at Willamette University and presented about the OCFW. Invited ad-hoc community members. Also announced the Women of Achievement awards.
Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna - This is her last OCFW meeting prior to moving to Spain. Thanked everyone for their work and is excited about the new partnership between OCFW and the foundation.
Doris Cancel-Tirado - Attended the OAC’s Joint Health Committee meeting on 9/9. Met with Lucy and Ty yesterday and will lead a topic at an upcoming Health Committee meeting. Developing ideas on how to integrate her health policy students with research project. Attended meeting on Bill of Rights for children of incarcerated parents.

Stephanie Vardavas - Participated in Sen Shields’ workgroup on incarcerated parents. Will be meeting monthly. $600,000 of funding for the FFP is included in the state budget this biennium, but the group is looking for a permanent budget home within state government for the project. Senator Dembrow will be the lead sponsor for any related funding bills and the children’s bill of rights.

Clara Beas-Fitzgerald – Is also participating in Sen. Shields’ task force. She is interested in seeing that children of incarcerated parents have priority in school programs be included in the bill of rights.

Barbara Spencer - Met with Brenda Tracy, rape victim who worked with John Canzano and OSU football players. Was instrumental in getting Megan's Bill passed. Barbara is working with her on her legislative slate. OCFW is invited to work on Nov 4th Women and Girls’ Summit with the YWCA and the Women’s Foundation, and are now part of the planning committee. The Summit will bringing leaders from around the state who work in women's programs to consider the Count Her In report and how to use the report material effectively. Barbara invited all commissioners to suggest names of those to invite to the summit.

D. Oregon State Library Equity Toolbox and Public Policy Playbook Research project – Chair Spencer reported:

The OCFW’s policy research intern, Jessica Bull, will be collaborating with the OCFW’s partnership with the State Library reference department to prepare an equity policy tool box for women’s issues in the OCFW’s strategic priorities and including how other states define equity in relation to public policy. The toolkit will be a growing tool contributed to by all the OAC’s and their research partners in state government and maintained by the State Library as part of their Info Guides applications. The Equity tool box will be the repository for research on best practices, literature reviews and other policy background studies, data and other equity related information gathered by the Advocacy Commissions and their state partners. As part of the project, Jessica will work with the OCFW to identify several emerging areas for policy research and begin research on 3 – 5 subjects with the State Library reference section, adding the information into the new toolbox. This projects uses an equity lens to approach prosperity for women and girls in Oregon. Barbara will send the Info Guide webpage to the OCFW for review and comment as it is developed.

E. OCFW Bylaws Amendments Committee report

Chair Spencer and Commissioner Vardavas will serve as the bylaws committee that will propose updates to the OCFW bylaws at the November meeting.

F. Family Preservation Project Meeting Update

The OCFW will be visiting Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in September and will have the opportunity to visit the FPP on site and meet some of the participants as well as tour the medium and minimum security areas.

G. Legislative Discussion

Ty reported on several areas of interest he is following for the OCBA:

Pay Equity. OCFW asked him to look at different models introduced as pieces of legislation and/or have passed. MA, NY and CA have passed bills which might provide helpful models.
Rosenbaum, and Rep Vega Pederson have been sponsors and champions of high profile bills on pay equity.

HB 2007 – Allows no retaliation when employees share salary info. Wage transparency.
HB 2006 – Civil rights violation if employers pay different wages for same job.

Trish Garner, visiting the OCFW meeting from AAUW reported on discussions regarding equal pay for equal work legislation. There were difficulties around how to measure “equal.” CA laws on this subject provide a useful template that focused the message on “comparable” work.

Trish is also reviewing a Massachusetts bill as a good template around not requiring job applicants to divulge past wage levels. She will be meeting soon with a senator to consider an Oregon bill on the subject.

Senator Monnes Anderson noted that she will support legislation about this.

Ty also reported on:
1. OAC’s Joint Legislative Committee meeting 12/6 - that meeting will be in this building from 9am - 4pm.
2. Legislative Concepts deadlines for 2017 Legislative session
3. Joint Health Committee organizational meeting - update. OCFW was well-represented at this first meeting on 9/9. The next meeting in October will focus on health and its relationship to housing.

OCFW will host the December meeting of the OAC’s Joint Health Commission. Women's health issues will be the topic. Commissioner Cancel-Tirado and Ty will meet to plan the agenda soon.

VI. New Business
A. Women of Achievement awards 2016 (Ceremony in 2017) - The nominations are now open and close on October 17th. Decisions on nominees will be made at the November meeting. There are also nominees from 2015 will be considered for this year’s WOA. (Nominees can be held over for one year.)
B. “Confirmation” screening at the Hollywood Theater, 9/21/16 - film about Anita Hill, well-recommended. The director will be on hand to answer questions. Reservations are needed for this event.
C. Coffee Creek Correctional Facility Tour 9/30/16 - the visit will include a meeting with Nichole Brown and Monica Genera, Family Advocate. The Commissioners shared a number of questions which Nancy will share with the DOC for answers prior to the tour.

VII. Administrator’s Report
A. Lucy reported on work that the OCBA is doing with BOLI regarding raising awareness within the legislature about the effectiveness of pre-apprenticeship programs in raising the number of apprentices of color who complete their apprenticeship periods and graduate to Journey level. Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc., is also a leader in this work and would be helpful for the OCFW to engage around the value of pre-apprenticeship for women and women of color especially.

B. Financial report – Lucy reported that the August projections for the OACO budget show that there will be General Funds (GF), which are part of OACO’s biennial allocation of tax funds, available at the end of the current biennium in June, 2017. She will be working with the OACO Chairs and Vice Chairs to recommend a list of options to expend those funds in support of the statutory work of the Commissions before the end of the biennium. One of the areas for consideration that Lucy is recommending will include project management training for Nancy Kramer. The Commissioners agreed that this is important and also noted that OCFW provided a number of scholarships for New Leadership Oregon through PSU for women students from communities of color and rural areas statewide: a tradition they would like to continue with some
of the available funds. More information will be forthcoming as the projections become more precise with each passing month.

VIII. Good of the Order
   A. Next OCFW meeting Friday, November 18\textsuperscript{th}
   B. Announcements – OCFW Officer elections at November meeting
   C. Change the January meeting from the 20\textsuperscript{th} to the 27\textsuperscript{th}.
      Two new Commissioners scheduled to come on board, to be confirmed next week.

IX. Adjourn
Chair Spencer adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.