Oregon Commission for Women
Friday, November 14, 2014
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Room 612,
Portland, OR 97232

ATTENDANCE
Chair: Stephanie Vardavas
Vice Chair: Jeanne Burch (Skype)
Commissioners: Megan Jacquot, Barbara Spencer, Stephanie Swanson
Absent: Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna, Representative Komp, Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Guests: Jodi Ballard, Jeannette Hulse
Staff: Nancy Kramer

I. Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 12:15pm. A quorum was established part-way through the meeting.

II. Adoption of the Agenda
MOTION (Spencer/Jacquot): To adopt the agenda as written. CARRIED.

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

IV. Public Comment - There was no public comment.

V. OCFW Old Business
   A. Committee Reports
      Chair Vardavas thanked the Health & Environmental Justice Committee and the Women’s Economic Security Committee for providing written reports.

   B. Social Media
      Laura Aguon is the OACO’s new part-time Communications Assistant. Laura working on the OAC’s goal to have a stronger presence on Facebook and also established a shared Twitter account. Amongst the 4 OAC’s Facebook accounts the OCFW is well established with almost 800 Likes. Chair Vardavas urged all commissioners who use FB to ask their FB
friends once a week to like the OCFW page. Commissioners are encouraged to post on Facebook and also on the Twitter account (#ORadvocacy). Laura is working on increasing the number of followers on Twitter and needs the OCFW’s help.

Commissioner Swanson has experience boosting posts and offered to meet with Laura to discuss this communications strategy.

Chair Vardavas would like to see the formation of a joint OAC social media committee, with 1 Commissioner from each OAC on the committee. They would work with Laura to raise awareness and engagement on each committee about social media. The committee would also work with Laura to develop a social media plan for each OAC. The next joint OAC meeting could have social media as an agenda item, to continue to raise awareness and increase participation of the OACs social media outlets.

VI. OCFW New Business
A. Jeannette Hulse addressed the Commission. She is from the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Aging and People w/Disabilities Advocacy and Development Unit. Jeannette’s unit supports the Governor’s Commission on Senior Services and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Program which now includes the Aging and Disability Resource Center which can help anyone, regardless of age or income, determine wraparound services for themselves or another individual.

Jeannette discussed Senate Bill 21, which passed in the 2013 session and requires DHS to develop a plan to improve and strengthen Oregon’s public long-term services and supports system. She is seeking feedback from communities to help DHS improve its services, and increase ability to navigate the system. Her unit will present their findings to the Legislature in February 2015, and hopes to receive approval to move forward on planning improvements.

The legislature created an Innovations Fund of $2 million to improve services for Senior and Disabilities. Interested agencies must submit an RFP, through the state’s Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN, info.orpin@oregon.gov). All proposals must be innovative and solve a problem that already exists. They encourage focusing on populations that have not previously received much attention. There will be another opportunity to apply for an Innovation Fund grant in December 2015. Mobile dental vans for rural areas is an example of a project that was funded. Jeannette suggested the OACs consider a project for funding that increases quality and improving access to long-term services in Oregon for communities of color. She is available to answer questions about the RFP before it is posted in December and can be reached at jeannette.l.hulse@state.or.us (as of this meeting her phone is not working so email is the best way to contact her).

Senator Monnes Anderson is involved in developing a road map for expectations of needs for the aging and disabled community. Oregon saves $5.5 billion annually because one or more unpaid caregivers (spouses, children, friends, neighbors) are tending to individuals in need. Oregon developed the Oregon Lifespan Respite Program in Klamath Falls, to provide time out for unpaid caregivers. The program was not funded in Oregon, but the design has been so successful it has been replicated around the country and internationally.
Jeannette is available to attend a future OCFW meeting if the Commissioners have questions or would like more information.

The Commission thanked Jeannette for her time and her presentation.

B. Women of Achievement Award nominees

The Commissioners shared their top four picks for the 2015 awardees. They agreed that the 8 nominees were all outstanding choices. The top five choices were selected and a motion was entertained for the final choices:

MOTION (Spencer/ Jacquot): To select Cheryl Strayed, Jill Tanner, Lisa Schroeder, Peg Malloy and Senator Joanne Verger to be the 2015 Women of Achievement awardees. CARRIED.

Notification of Awardees and nominators: The Commissioners decided how the awardees would receive the news. Barbara will contact Peg Malloy and her nominator. Nancy will ask Representative Komp and Senator Roblan if they would like to notify Senator Verger. If not, the OCFW will contact her. Stephanie Vardavas will reach out to Cheryl Strayed, Jill Tanner, and Lisa Schroeder. It was agreed that once notified, each awardee will be asked to provide a high-resolution digital photo of herself, and be asked to hold May 2nd, 2015, from 11am – 2pm for the awards brunch.

Chair Vardavas will write the bios for each winner. Once all awardees are notified Nancy will update the press release and make the necessary updates on the state’s WOA web page. Jodi will work on the resolution, which may also be in 2015. Chair Vardavas will speak with Lucy about a request to have a ceremony with the Governor.

Tickets for the May event are expected to be $70 or $75 each. There was a brief discussion about sponsorship requests to law offices in Portland and Wells Fargo Bank. It is unlikely that there will be video clips of each winner for this event, as it became a larger time commitment than originally anticipated.

The Commissioners agreed that nominees that are not chosen in any given year will automatically rollover one time to the following year. After that nominators are invited to resubmit their nominee. They will plan to have a discussion about the shared WOA vision before soliciting nominations next year.

The OCFW plans to hold a regular meeting in Corvallis in July or September and would like to connect with Kiki Prottsman and any other nominees when they are in the area.

C. Oregon State Library

State Librarian MaryKay Dahlgreen and Margie Harrison, the Head Researcher, met with Representative Komp, Stephanie Vardavas, Barbara Spencer, Lucy and Nancy to discuss how the Library could provide data for the Status of Oregon Women report produced by the OCFW. The OCFW and the Women’s Equality Coalition developed a list of indicators for data regarding women and girls in Oregon. This list was discussed at the meeting and MaryKay and Margie agreed that the library researchers can find data for the indicators listed. The Library welcomes to the opportunity to do this work for the OCFW and will take on the project. It was noted that the library researchers can find the data but it is not within their scope of work to analyze the data or write the report.
D. Discussion of an OAC Newsletter
   Nancy will check with Lucy to see if there is an update on a joint OAC newsletter. Commissioners liked the idea of creating newsletter, with support of a work-study student, and would plan to post it online.

VII. Administrator’s Report
   Lucy Baker was vacationing at the time of the OCFW meeting so Nancy Kramer reported. Laura Aguon, the OACO’s Communications Assistant continues to do a fabulous job supporting the OAC’s presence on social media and initiating a communications plan that will help the OAC’s engage community on key issues. Lucy and Nancy are thrilled with her work and initiative.

   There was no update on the OACO’s Agency Request Budget (ARB). The Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB) is will be released on December 1st.

VIII. Good of the Order
   Katharine Quince resigned from the Friends of the OCFW so as to focus her efforts on the Women’s Equality Coalition. Jodi is in conversation with a possible new Friends board member who works in a local grocery store.

   Two new commissioners are joining the OCFW after confirmation at the December Senate hearing. One of them has experience with fundraising. Lucy will be sharing the new OCFW Handbook with them when she attends their confirmation hearing and will refer to it as part of the new Commissioner orientation.

   Chair Vardavas will phone in to the January 2015 OCFW meeting. She will also be away from March 28th to April 28th. She would like to attend the joint resolution honoring the Women of Achievement and hopes there will not be a conflict.

   Regarding the Women of Achievement awards, Jodi was asked to be proactive in prioritizing tasks that need to be done and reaching out to the Commissioners for help.

   The Commissioners expressed sadness about Commissioner Mariahm Stephenson resigning from the OCFW. Commissioner Swanson is not able to chair the Health and Environmental Justice committee, but perhaps one of the two new commissioners will be interested in taking this on.

IX. Adjourn
   The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.
Opening
The regular meeting of the Health & Environmental Justice (HEJ) Committee was called to order at 10:15 am on October 27, 2014 via teleconference.

Present
Stephanie Swanson, Mariahm Stephenson

Approval of Agenda
No written agenda.

Approval of Minutes
Approved meeting Minutes for September 5, 2014.

Open Issues
Status of Goals #1-3.
Goal #1: Review current environmental justice and health policies at state level.
Tasks:
1. Determine which environmental justice and health policies are active in Oregon as of 2014.
2. Determine if there are gaps in HEJ policies.
3. Determine if there is difficulty in enforcing HEJ policies. If so, what are they?
4. Find out how to keep HEJ policies at the forefront of visibility and awareness so that people can access the policy information when needed.

Action: Contact Commissioner Robin Morris Collin about assigning a Willamette University intern to Committee to achieve tasks for Goal #1.
Status: Commissioner Stephenson contacted Robin Morris Collin via email about an Intern being assigned for tasks 1-4. Commissioner Stephenson is awaiting a response from Robin.

Goal #2: Develop a document that provides information about the differences between environmental health and environmental justice issues.
Tasks:
1. Collaborate with Washington County Environmental Health Department to develop legal definition of environmental health.
2. Collaborate with Jon Ostar (OPAL and Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force) develop legal definition of environmental justice.
3. Compile a list of County Environmental Health Departments in Oregon and the Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force.
Action: Contact- key person at Washington County Environmental Health Department and Jon Ostar.
Status:
1. According to Jon Ostar (OEJTF), we need to follow legal definition of Environmental Justice based on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) which is:

“Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across this Nation. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work”.

2. Scheduled to meet with Curtis Cude on Thursday 11/13/14 at 2:30 PM. Mr. Cude is the Interim Environmental Public Health Section Manager, Center for Health Protection, Oregon Health Authority – Public Health Division. Topic of discussions will be centered on the existence of or creation of a “Citizens Guide to Pesticide/Insecticide Safety”.

Goal #3: Collaborate with other Health and Environmental Justice related committees, organizations, and agencies on health and environmental justice related policies.
Tasks:
1. Establish a working relationship with OCHA, OCBA, and OCAPIA Health Committees.
2. Establish working relationship with Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force.
3. Send out letters to local Health and Environmental Justice related committees, agencies, and organizations; informing them of the HEJ existence and the Committee’s desire to partner, collaborate, and/or support their health and environmental justice related policies.

Action: Make contact with health and environmental justice committees, organizations, and agencies.
Status: Commissioners Swanson and Stephenson would like input from OCFW Commissioners about the role of HEJC in reference to partnering with other committees, organizations, agencies, etc.; prior to sending out letters of introduction.

New Business
No new business.
Agenda for Next Meeting - November Agenda to be established by November 19, 2014.

Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM by Mariahm Stephenson. The next general meeting TBA.
Minutes submitted by: Mariahm Stephenson
Approved by: Stephanie Swanson, Mariahm Stephenson
Meeting began at 11:40 am with Lucy Baker, Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna and Barbara Spencer in attendance.

Meeting results:

1. Committee member reports on activities since last meeting
   o Jessica reported on Nancy Pelosi/Family Forward event,
   o Barbara reported on potential Cylvia Hayes meeting and contact made with Oregon Tradeswomen

2. Discussion and review of LC’s proposed by Rep. Kemp and Sen. Monnes Anderson
   o **Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work to Close the Gender Pay Gap.** Reduces the pay gap through increased enforcement of equal pay laws for state contractors. Requires businesses with 40 or more employees seeing state contracts of over $500,000 to certify they are paying employees equal wages, regardless of gender. Contractors will also have to certify that there are no pay gaps between men and women by job class.

   o **Strengthen Support for Victims of Domestic Violence.** Allows employees to use existing earned sick leave for reasons related to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Helps combat the negative economic consequences of sexual assault and stalking by expanding unemployment insurance eligibility currently available to victims of domestic violence.

3. Update on Oregon Women’s Equality Coalition – Review and discussion of organizational structure and membership, report proposal, fundraising plans and goals
4. Discussion on committee childcare review with potential assistance by OR Solutions and Oregon Consensus
5. Discussion on potential legislative updates by state agencies with relevance for the women’s economic security committee.
6. Discussion of equity lens playbook for upcoming legislative session
7. Discussion of potential agenda for Sen. Jessica Vega-Pederson, scheduled for November 6th. Emphasis on working families agenda, recommendations and legislative champions
8. Work assignments before next meeting
   o Jessica to meet with AARP on economic security for older women and to explore potential collaboration on childcare issue
   o Along with others, Barbara to meet with Paloma Sparks, BOLI, and MaryKay Dahlgren, OR State Librarian. Also meet with Sen. Jessica Vega-Pederson
   o Jeanne to review for potential interest areas and assignments

Meeting ended at 12:30 pm; Next meeting - TBD.

Notes submitted by Barbara Spencer
The meeting began at 10:00 am with Jeanne Burch via conference call, Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna and Barbara Ramirez Spencer in attendance.

Meeting results:
1. Committee member reports on activities since the last meeting were reviewed.
   - Jeanne discussed the Oregon Retirement Savings Task Force Recommendations and her plans to speak with a Oregon Treasurer’s staff member about the recommendations.
   - Jessica reviewed her meeting notes with AARP community engagement staffer, Bandana Shrestha. Discussions centered on the following potential partnership opportunities:
     o AARP to provide a briefing to OCFW on their legislative pieces for 2015.
     o AARP Spring Forum with women across the state – will also organize a listening session. AARP will organize details, OCFW lend name & possibly a Commissioner to attend.
   - Barbara reviewed her notes from meetings with Paloma Sparks (BOLI) and Senator Jessica Vega-Pederson who are both interested in partnerships with the OCFW for legislative support on fair pay, skills training and family friendly policies which includes child care and paid sick days. The legislative concepts endorsed by the OCFW legislative representative members were also reviewed at these meetings.
   - All committee members endorsed involvement with the partnership opportunities that had been presented in the reports.

2. Potential legislative review for the upcoming session and the timing of legislative schedule were discussed.
3. Support for an Oregon Solutions meeting to review legislative strategies on fair pay was discussed.
4. Update on the Women’s Equality Coalition organizational structure for leadership and committees was reviewed.
5. Work assignments before the next committee meeting were reviewed:
   - Jeanne will continue working on the proposed Oregon Retirement Savings Fund and will contact the State County Departments of Aging to learn more about their programs and services
   - Jessica will continue working with AARP and follow-up with the Oregon Solutions group.
   - Barbara will continue to work with interested parties on proposed legislation for the 2015 Legislative Session and will also try to gather statistical information on Oregon women and aging.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am; Next meeting - TBD.
Notes were approved by all committee members and submitted by BR Spencer.