Attendees:
Chair: Dr. Barbara Ramírez Spencer
Vice Chair: Absent
Commissioners: Dr. Doris Cancel-Tirado (phone), Adrienne Olson (phone), Julia Yoshimoto, Rep Malstrom (phone)
Absent: Clara Beas-Fitzgerald, Kim Olson, Sen Monnes Anderson, Stephanie Vardavas
Guests: Meg Bushman Reinhold, Legislative Fiscal Office; Gary Sims, Oregon Department of Corrections; Carin Berg, Oregon Women’s Sailing Association; Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) and immigration attorney (phone); Harley Paulsen, Policy Change student
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to order – Chair Ramírez Spencer call the meeting to order at 12:13pm. A quorum was not established. Everyone introduced themselves for the benefit of those on the phone.

II. A. Approval of the July 2017 Minutes – This item was tabled and will be covered at the next OCFW meeting when a quorum is present.

B. Approval of the 10/6/17 Oregon Advocacy Commissions Annual Joint Meeting Minutes – This item was tabled and will be covered at the next OCFW meeting when a quorum is present.

III. Approval of the November agenda – Commissioners accepted the agenda by common consent.

IV. Public Comment – there was no public comment.

V. Commissioners’ Reports
Chair Ramírez Spencer, a member of the Women’s Foundation of Oregon board, reported that now that the WFO’s wildly successful report they produced, Count Her In, is completed, with the clear takeaways of the Eight that Can’t Wait, the WFO is focused on strategic planning to determine next goals. The WFO is interested in partnering with the OCFW on future projects of mutual interest. Chair Ramirez Spencer will report on her other activities later in the meeting. Commissioner Yoshimoto will do the same.
VI. Old Business

A. Women of Achievement awards

Commissioners agreed that the effort to conduct more outreach this year, with a focus on community-based individuals and a smaller focus on lifetime achievements, was effective and yielded a different pool of nominations. It was important that the nominees’ work transformed their community, whatever their community may be, and made an impact. They would like the awards to continue to grow in this direction.

Each Commissioner used the rating sheet Chair Ramírez Spencer created and submitted their list of winners by highest ranking. Chair Ramírez Spencer provided a summary of the combined sheets. The Commissioners that submitted rating sheets constituted a majority of the OCFW. Based on these rankings and after reviewing the achievements of each nominee and the various communities the nominees have supported, Commissioners agreed that the top ranked honorees are Dr. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry, Dr. Guadalupe Guajardo, Liliana Luna and Anita Yap. The OCFW will ratify this decision at their next meeting when there is a quorum.

Some Commissioners found that despite widening the arena to include emerging leaders, it was difficult to compare the accomplishments of a woman late in her career to those of an emerging leader.

Chair Ramírez Spencer will contact the nominees and their nominators the week of November 27th. Commissioners were asked to keep the names of the winners confidential until after that week.

B. OCFW recommendations for ODE Ethnic Studies Advisory Board

The Ethnic Studies Advisory Board was created under HB 2845 in the 2017 legislative session, to ensure that the history of unrepresented and underrepresented communities in Oregon is part of the k-12 public school social studies curriculum. Representatives Diego Hernandez and Teresa Alonso Leon were very involved in the passage of this bill. The OACs and OACO were named in the bill to nominate members to represent their communities on the Advisory Group. Chair Ramírez Spencer reviewed with Commissioners the list of all nominees submitted to the Administrator of this Advisory Group.

The OCFW chose Ami Patel from the Women’s Foundation of Oregon to represent the LGBTQ community in Oregon and Ana del Rocio, Executive Director of ColorPAC to represent women in Oregon. The Ethnic Studies Advisory Board will meet for the first time later this month, and is required to submit a report to the legislature by mid 2019. The OCFW’s choice of appointees will be ratified at the next OCFW meeting when a quorum is present.

C. OAC’s Annual Joint Meeting review

Commissioners discussed the OAC’s Annual Joint Meeting on 10/6/17 in Salem. Subjects of discussion included Intersectionality, Partnerships, Policy Arc and Rural issues. Commissioners agreed with the proposal made at the Annual Joint Meeting: the important work of Intersectionality may be best accomplished in a committee structure comprised of multiple OAC representatives. Implementing and staffing a committee structure within the OAC’s would be new and will need planning but is exciting to consider. The OACs now have many specific issues that intersect among their strategic priority areas. There
will be a reconvening of the Annual Joint Meeting planning committee in January that will include looking at ideas for a sustainable committee structure and staffing plan.

VII. New Business

A. Women in Prison Conference review
Commissioner Yoshimoto organized this year’s Women in Prison conference that Chair Ramírez Spencer and Commissioner Ochs attended. Commissioner Yoshimoto briefly shared the history of this event: This was the 4th year the conference was held. It began in Eugene, through the University of Oregon Law School, and was connected to programming at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

This year’s conference had a focus on the intersection of domestic violence advocates, and the legal aspect of criminal defense, of women who experience trauma and violence and are then convicted (they become the defendant, not the plaintiff). DV advocacy groups have historically focused on women plaintiffs, but there are a growing number of women who are the defendants. There was also a focus on the challenges law enforcement faces, with their limited training and exposure, versus immigration issues where people are fearful of law enforcement.

Commissioner Ochs expressed appreciation for this year’s conference having a focus on DV. Questions were asked: How can the OCFW support policy on DV prevention? How does DV impact women’s decision making, and their children? This conference opened her eyes and she will keep these thoughts in mind when the OCFW is considering policy options.

Chair Ramírez Spencer noted the intersectionality for DV survivors of affordable housing and economic security. They are strongly connected. One in three women in Oregon are DV survivors. The Chair also noted that former Commissioner Megan Jacquot was a strong advocate for policy regarding DV and was the champion for the OCFW’s first bill, to keep a DV survivor’s name change out of the public record.


Chair Ramírez Spencer briefly discussed this report from the Institute for Women’s Policy Research. It provides an understanding of what DV does to one’s life and that it is extremely difficult to overcome DV. This report illustrates the quality of materials the OCFW would like to have available for writing testimony. Commissioner Yoshimoto added that the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women advocates systemic change for victims who are defendants. They can provide a kit with a lot of good information.

C. Community Partnerships – PSU’s Center for Women’s Leadership (CWL) and YWCA
Chair Ramírez Spencer discussed her recent meetings on building potential partnerships with the OCFW: one with Traci Rossi, the Executive Director of Portland State University’s Center for Women’s Leadership (CLW) and one with Susan Stoltenberg, the Executive Director of the YWCA.
The OCFW provided scholarships for the CWL’s New Leadership Oregon (NLO) program during the past biennium 2015-17. It is a week-long conference on empowering women leaders from across Oregon, from college students to women well into their careers. Building women’s leadership is part of the statutory charge of the OCFW and OAC’s so building on this using leadership scholarships has been very effective. While the OAC’s often have advocacy partners, developing leadership partners may also be useful in various ways. Ms. Rossi indicated an interest in exploring such a partnership with OCFW out of which an MOU or other less formal agreement as OCFW’s leadership partner could come.

Related to this, Chair Ramírez Spencer is exploring the possibility of an OCFW fundraiser in May 2018 with support from the CWL. Funds raised would be deposited in the OCFW’s Other Funds account, which is managed by the state’s Department of Administrative Services (DAS), and the OCFW would use the funds to support women’s leadership development throughout Oregon. The OCFW will work with the other OACs to connect on leadership development, to make sure that some of their constituents are involved and that culturally specific leadership training is included. NW Natural has been generous in hosting one leadership-focused fundraiser per year for the OACs, since 2016. The event space, and catering are all provided, so all the funds raised go to the Commission holding the fundraiser for their leadership development work. The Commission was very interested in learning if NW Natural would host such an event with OCFW and the CWL. Lucy will work with the Chair to reach out to them in December.

The YWCA is currently housing the Family Preservation Project (FPP). The OCFW has been supportive of the FPP on an ongoing basis and will continue to do so. The OCFW has also been attending the YWCA lobby days, and looks forward to continuing to build this relationship.

D. Strategic Planning Advocacy and Research Follow-up
Chair Ramírez Spencer invited Commissioners to talk about the flood of sexual harassment cases erupting around the world across a wide range of industries. It was noted that Governor Brown recently issued a statement to all state managers to be ready to investigate any forthcoming sexual harassment cases from employees and to be supportive in hearing people out. Representative Malstrom noted that there is a lot of discussion amongst legislators about sexual harassment and that perceptions are changing. Legislators are required to go through sensitivity training. Discussion followed.

E. U-Visa Work Group
Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, Chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA), is also an immigration lawyer. She spoke with the OCFW about a new legislative U-Visa Work Group that is forming, that she will lead. Dr. Joe Gallegos is also serving on the group from OCHA. Chanpone would also like to have representatives from OCFW and OCBA on this work group and is hoping that one of the Commissioners might serve.

The Work Group’s goal is to develop legislation that will require Oregon law enforcement to work with immigrants and refugees, some of whom are undocumented, if they come forward to report a crime. Lucy will reach out to potentially interested Commissioners in the coming week and let Chanpone know.
VIII. Administrator’s Report

A. Consideration of increasing Commissioners’ terms from 3 years to 4 years
   The Commission considered the benefits of changing OAC terms from three to four years and were supportive of the idea of a four-year term. It would allow better time for a new commissioner to learn in their first year and still have adequate time in one term to work on their goals for commission service. Three year terms are generally too short for that.

B. Hiring for OPA3 position at OACO
   The OACs support the idea of the Operations and Policy Analyst focusing most on public policy research projects, in light of their recent conversation at the Annual Joint meeting about intersectionality and the role of the OACs in the policy arc. All Commissioners received the revised position description and Lucy anticipates DAS Human Resources posting the job announcement before Thanksgiving. Commissioners will receive the web link once the position is posted and area to share it with their networks.

C. OACO approved budget for 2017-19
   Lucy has received the OACO’s line item budget and requested the OACO’s bookkeeper to project expenses for the full biennium. The projections look good and she is confident that the open position will be filled early in the new year.

D. OCFW Meeting location for 2018
   Nancy will reserve room 612 in the Portland State Office Building (PSOB) for 2018. There is a possibility of a meeting in the Dalles in fall 2018.

IX. For the Good of the Order

A. The next OCFW meeting will be as scheduled, on Friday, January 19, 2018.
B. Announcements – there were no announcements.

X. Adjourn - Chair Ramirez Spencer adjourned the meeting at 2:42PM.