I. Call to order - Chair Spencer called the meeting to order at 12:10pm. A quorum was established at 1:15 pm.

II. Approval of the agenda and the September 2016 Minutes –
   MOTION (Vardavas/Fisher): To accept the agenda with the accommodation of waiting for votes and associated discussion until 1:15pm when there will be a quorum. CARRIED.

   MOTION (Vardavas/Malstrom): To approve the September 2016 minutes as written. CARRIED.

III. Public Comment - Gary Sims thanked the OCFW for its tour of the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

IV. Introductions – Chair Spencer welcomed the OCFW’s new Commissioner, Nikki Fisher. Nikki introduced herself. She is the ED of the Oregon Bus Project, a social action nonprofit, and looks forward to being on the OCFW.

V. Guest Presentation - Elizabeth Estabrooks, MSSW, State of Oregon Women Veterans Coordinator, presentation on the Oregon Women Veterans Health Study.
   Liz introduced herself. HB 3479 was passed in 2015 and created her position of coordinator for Oregon Women Veterans. She herself is an Army vet and she serves the 28,000 women veterans in the state, which is 9% of the veteran population. The number of women veterans is growing steadily. Currently it is 15% of all those currently serving and could be as high as 20% by 2040. This is concerning because programs for women veterans are already insufficient.
She cited several alarming statistics for this population. Women vets have a higher possibility of substance abuse, homelessness and suicide than male veterans. And women veterans between 18 and 29 years old are more likely to commit suicide. They are 12 times more likely to do so if they have experienced sexual trauma. Fifty-nine percent of women in Oregon reported sexual trauma or harassment in the armed forces but most, 65% of them, are not receiving services to treat these issues.

Women veterans are an invisible population. Often they are not counted in data, and their service minimized if they served in country or in combat areas. The resulting analyses are inadequate and insufficient for meeting the needs of female veterans. Counseling is available for veterans, but when the patient is female they are often refused assistance for inpatient substance abuse and sexual trauma. For unclear reasons, women veterans have a higher burden of proof to establish mental health issues. They are often under-diagnosed for PTSD, trauma and traumatic brain injury. There are also less social supports for female veterans, because organizations such as VFWs and American Legion organizations are primarily male-focused, coupled with women often not being identified, or not identifying themselves as veterans.

The Commissioners asked what they can do to change the landscape for women veterans. Recommendations included advocating for a “healthcare navigator” to be established, as they have proven effective for women in crisis; and open an inpatient facility for women veterans in Oregon. The three pages of recommendations from the report are appended as part of these minutes. The Commission was also encouraged to submit a letter supporting these recommendations and that stress the importance of services for women veterans remaining intact.

Liz is interested in learning more about women veterans who are inmates in the Oregon Corrections system. The office can connect her to Gary Sims at ODOC.

The Commission thanked Liz for her presentation.

VI. OCFW Old Business
A. OCFW Officer Elections
Nominations were taken at the previous OCFW meeting. The nominations are Dr. Barbara Spencer for Chair, and Kim Olson for Vice Chair.

Chair Spencer called the vote for OCFW Chair. Dr. Barbara Spencer was elected unanimously.
Chair Spencer called the vote for OCFW Vice Chair. Kim Olson was elected unanimously.

The officers assumed their duties immediately.

B. Commissioners’ Reports
Sheri Malstrom: Commissioners congratulated Sheri Malstrom for winning in the general election for state Representative. A strong supporter of women’s healthcare issues, Sheri noted she has already submitted legislative concepts through Rep Reade, and spoken to Speaker Kotek about becoming the new Rep for the OCFW.

Chair Spencer discussed the release of the Count Her In report by the Women's Foundation of Oregon (WFO) in Salem on 9/21. The WFO is an official partner of the OCFW. The Governor attended the release and made supportive remarks. The WFO is holding a series of discussion
sessions on the *Eight That Can’t Wait* priority areas identified in the *Count Her In* report as being obstacles to equity for women (calendar is here: [https://www.facebook.com/WomensFndOregon/events/](https://www.facebook.com/WomensFndOregon/events/))

She also discussed the national release of the IWPR’s (Institute for Women's Policy Research) *Status of Women in the States* report ([www.statusofwomendata.org](http://www.statusofwomendata.org)) which included data on women's economic security report, a priority issue for the OCFW. Here are the grades for women in Oregon, from 2015:

- Political Participation: B-
- Employment & Earnings: C+
- Work & Family: B-
- Poverty & Opportunity: C
- Reproductive Rights: A-
- Health & Well-Being: C

These grades are reflective of the data analyses of the *Count Her In* report.

Barbara shared highlights from the first Summit on Oregon Women and Girls, which was held in Portland at the YWCA. Executive directors from women and girls groups across the state were invited and eighty people attended. Topics included how to use the report data or research, and funding, programming and advocacy.

The OCFW was also a sponsor of the Women's Voting Brunch on 10/31. Other sponsors included the Portland Business Alliance and the League of Women Voters. Over 100 women attended including a number of youth.

Doris Cancel-Tirado contacted colleagues and is working with Ty on a speaker for the next Joint OACs Health committee meeting on January 13th. The topic will be changes in women’s health nationwide and in Oregon with the new administration.

Stephanie Vardavas wrote a letter to Sybil Hebb at the Oregon Law Center about mandatory minimum sentencing and its interpretation.

**C. Appreciation of Commissioner Komp** – Barbara thanked Representative Komp for her long time service to the OCFW. She attended every event the OCFW held, and carried two bills the OCFW proposed in 2015: SB 491, pay equity in state contracts and SB 492, use of sick leave for domestic violence related needs. Commissioners applauded her robust efforts for women in Oregon. Representative Komp is retiring from her service as a legislator in January.

**D. Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCF) Tour Review**

All Commissioners who attended agreed that the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility tour was an intense and moving experience. In particular was mentioned the importance of meeting and hearing from participants in the Family Preservation Project, a program the OCFW supports.

The increasing rate of incarcerated women is of great concern to the OCFW, as is the proposal to open a new women’s prison. This is directly connected to the impact of Measure 11, mandatory minimum sentencing (MMS). Commissioner Cancel-Tirado is studying the negative impact of these sentences on families. Stephanie will reach out to Sybil Hebb at the Oregon Law Center to learn what can be done to change the MMS law.
Julia Yoshimoto, Director of the Reentry Law Project/Women in Prison Project, will speak at the January 2017 OCFW meeting on legislation proposed in New York state regarding female offenders who are incarcerated because of crimes they committed in connection to domestic violence. Barbara, Lucy and Ty already met with her and Bobbin Singh from Oregon Justice Resource Center about this issue.

Judge Adrienne Nelson, who sits on the Multnomah County Circuit Court; the District Attorneys Association; Unite Oregon and the Partnership for Safety and Justice are all concerned about the proposed new prison and MMS. Gary Sims encouraged the OCFW to review and conduct an analysis of the data of incarcerated women of color at CCF.

The Commissioners thanked Gary and his staff for arranging the tour.

E. OCFW Bylaws Amendments Committee report
Chair Spencer, Vice Chair Olson and Commissioner Vardavas reviewed the OCFW Bylaws and made recommendations for revisions. Commissioners received a copy of the Bylaws with the proposed changes marked and Lucy walked them through it. Discussion followed. The Bylaws will be updated to reflect the suggested changes, sent to Commissioners for their final review and posted online. Commissioners will vote on the proposed amendments at the January 2017 meeting.

F. Oregon State Library Equity Toolbox and Public Policy Playbook Research project
The OCFW’s Public Policy Research intern, Jessica Bull, has been on board for about two months. She is working in tandem with the Oregon State Library’s intern, who is researching and creating an Equity Toolbox. Jessica is examining equity in public policy across OCFW’s strategic priority areas and under the OCFW’s guidance will narrow down to specific topics within lifting women out of poverty/economic fragility; affordable housing and equitable policies; affordable childcare and Domestic Violence. Jessica will look at state and federal practices within these areas. She will also work on InfoGuides, webpages the Library produces on specific areas, and posts on their website. The OCFW’s site will link to the InfoGuides created for them. Deliverables will be briefing sheets on these 4 topics, available to agencies and nonprofits and will include policy recommendations and references. Jessica's work on the project will end in February.

G. Legislative Discussion
1. OAC’s Joint Legislative Committee meeting 12/6 - Ty reviewed the agenda. The meeting provides an opportunity for Commissioners to gain a broader perspective on policy issues of importance this session to Oregon legislators and Governor Brown. All invited speakers are aware of the OACs mission and policy agenda and will include responses by agencies to possible impacts of the incoming federal administration. Commissioners break into their respective OAC and will update the list of search words Ty will use to identify bills of key importance for each of them. Those Commissioners who cannot attend are encouraged to submit search words in advance.

Commissioners can call in and lunch will be provided for those who attend.

2. Potential Legislative Concepts for 2017 Legislative session - all legislators have submitted legislation that will be available to the OACO on BillTracker in the first half of December. Because the state budget will be in deficit legislative concepts with a big fiscal impact will likely be dropped early in the session. Trish from AAUW moved forward with drafting Pay
Equity piece of legislation and will be available for review in early December. The DOJ racial profiling bill, inclusive histories in social study curriculums K -12, a Victims of Crime bill, housing, and Cover All Kids (healthcare for all children in Oregon) are ongoing topics of interest for the OACs. Senator Dembrow (OCAPIA) is moving forward with the Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights.

The OACs have excelled at supporting both legislation that passes and emerging issues for people of color and women in Oregon.

3. Joint Health Committee meeting – update
Ty arranged for two subject matter experts to discuss Oregon’s housing crisis and what is being done about it: Rachel Post of Central City Concern and Jerome Brooks of Oregon Opportunity Network. Rachel spoke about an historic investment partnership between Central City Concern and four hospitals (Legacy, Adventist, Providence and Kaiser Permanente) to build new, affordable housing, called the Unity Center. This was the first investment by hospitals in housing for the homeless in the United States. Healthcare organizations are looking upstream for social determinants of health and identifying stable housing as important for good health. The new units will open in January. They will partner with Multnomah County Health to provide services. Police will bring homeless people to the Unity Center for services, rather than to jail.

The next meeting of the OAC’s Joint Health Committee is January 13th with Commissioner Cancel Tirado Chairing. Ty will work with Doris to schedule a subject matter expert on women’s reproductive health for this meeting.

VI. New Business
A. 2016 Women of Achievement (WOA) Awards selection - Commissioners used a weighted ranking to select this year’s winners. Discussion followed.

MOTION (Vardavas /Olson): To honor Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura and Nancy Campbell Mead, the top two nominees, for the Oregon WOA awards. CARRIED.

B. 2016 Ceremony Review
Nancy submitted a request for Governor Brown to sign the proclamation for Women’s History Month, then have ceremony for Women of Achievement Award and is waiting for confirmation from the Governor’s Office. The combined event will tentatively run from 2:15pm to 4pm in the Governor’s Ceremonial Room at the Capitol. Chair Spencer will contact nominators about the status of their nominee this month, and a week later she will contact the nominees. Commissioner Vardaas will provide the cake again - thank you, Stephanie! Commissioners will consider a possible presenter of the awards. Barbara asked for assistance in soliciting donated or at cost gifts by women artists for the honorees.

Nancy will send Commissioners the most recent Women’s History Month proclamation for their review and suggested edits.

VII. Administrator’s Report
A. Financial report – the OACO is projected to have approximately $10,000 of unexpended General Fund at the end of the biennium. Lucy made two recommendations for spending some of it:
1. Enroll Nancy in Project Management training offered by the state in spring 2017. This will yield a certificate for Nancy in project management, and increase her skills to support the increasingly complex public policy research projects and community engagement work of the OAC's.

2. Increase in Policy Analyst’s hours - from December 4, 2016 to June 30, 2017. After speaking with the Chairs and Vice Chairs on this option and exploring the cost with DAS Accounting, Lucy recommends that OACO add 4 hours per week for Ty, bringing him to 3 days a week.

The OCFW accepted the report by common consent.

B. OCFW’s Biennial report to the Governor – This report will be professionally designed by the woman-owned graphic design business the OACO uses. The printed Summary will be in color on 11” x 17” cardstock, folded in half so it can double as a folder for the OAC’s other printed material. Lucy shared the preliminary list of the OCFW’s accomplishments for the 2015-17 biennium compiled by Ty and Nancy. Commissioners added to the list.

C. Request same meeting place for the OCFW’s 2017 meetings? Commissioners agreed that the State Office Building near Lloyd Center is a good meeting place that is also free. Nancy will request a room for meeting dates in 2017. Michele Malick offered the Department of Corrections board room in Salem, at Health Services building.

D. Other Funds report for the OCFW (this is donations received)
As agreed at the July 2015 meeting of the OCFW, $500 will be transferred to the Commission’s Other Funds from General Funds that covers 8 leadership scholarships to New Leadership Oregon this biennium.

Other Funds are those moneys raised through donations to the OCFW and through other fundraising efforts and are generally used for leadership development and support for OCFW’s work in advocacy and policy research. OCAPIA recently had a successful fundraiser that cleared $5,000. Lucy will share the details of the model with the Commission. Commissioner Adrienne Ochs has expressed an interest in fundraising to achieve the OCFW's mission.

VIII. Good of the Order
A. Next OCFW meeting January 20th, 2017.

IX. Adjourn - Chair Spencer adjourned the meeting at 2:56pm.