MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women
Friday, November 20, 2015
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
800 NE Oregon Street, Room 1D
Portland OR 97232

ATTENDANCE:
Chair: Dr. Barbara Spencer
Vice Chair: Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna
Commissioners: Sheri Malstrom, Stephanie Swanson, Stephanie Vardavas (phone)
Absent: Dr. Doris Cancel-Tirado, Representative Komp, Senator Monnes Anderson
Guests: Mary Moller, Director of Executive Appointments, and Serena Stoudamire, Director of Equity and Community Engagement, Governor’s Office; Amy Stork, Solid Ground Consulting; Shari Dunn, Executive Director, Dress for Success
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann

I. Call to order - the meeting was called to order at 12:05pm. A quorum was established. Chair Spencer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Approval of the agenda and the September 2015 Minutes
MOTION (Swanson/Rodriguez-Montegna): To approve the November 2015 agenda. CARRIED.

MOTION (Vardavas/Rodriguez-Montegna): To approve the September 2015 OCFW meeting minutes. CARRIED.

III. Strategic Planning Session: Dual Focus
Commissioner Swanson introduced Amy Stork, who is facilitating the session. Amy explained that today’s session is about where the OCFW is now, and who is at the table. The second strategic planning session will identify a set of priorities and strategic initiatives at the second session. Amy asked everyone to introduce themselves and share a little bit about their background:

A. The Story of Me – Exploration of shared vision and values.
Each attendee shared an experience when they took a significant risk. The stories ranged from personal risks to professional risks and were useful in participants getting to know one another better.
B. The Story of Now - Discussion of significant trends in the world/state that influence OCFW work right now.

The Commissioners engaged in a brainstorming session with a goal of identifying common themes.

**Trends**
- Terrorism/refugees
- Immigrant and migrant issues
- Perception that women and girls issues are solved, no sense of continuity with the battles of the past, idea that special programs for girls are discriminatory. Need to educate younger women about what came before
- Access to healthcare
- Money flowing to equity (but will there be a focus on women)
- Housing
- State funding goes to who is loudest or most known

**Needs**
- How to help those who aren’t in the position to access existing programs
- Early life as determinant phase
- Who is focusing on women in issues like housing? Single mothers and lower income
- Job retention - need for attendant services. Other things to help women stay employed-child care, maternity leave
- Incarcerated women – transition, family reunification

**Opportunities**
- Reframe the assumption that all women are ok
- There is an opportunity to partner with other advocacy organizations
- Recruiting more women for Oregon’s boards and commissions
- Utilizing reports to influence and inform public policy:
  - Status of Women and Girls in Oregon study
  - Urban League State of Black Oregon Report
  - The Coalition of Communities of Color Report
- Shared agenda with other groups – the new study on the Family Preservation Project?

Other topics identified by Commissioners for discussion at the January planning session:
- Engaging younger women in general and through the Women of Achievement awards
- Communicating with women across Oregon: what to communicate and how?
- Policy issues versus advocacy issues - discussion on developing more of a process on identifying priorities in policy. What Commissioners are interested in which issues?

Ty will look at analyzing proposed bills for the 2016 Legislative session and providing briefings that would cover how a bill will impact the life of a woman in Oregon. He will reach out to organizations identified by the Chairs to provide an update on each of these issues at the next meeting.
Commissioner Swanson will work with Amy to review the results of the brainstorming and develop a framework to identify a value set, trending and alignment of opportunities. They will have a report for Commissioners before the January session.

The January meeting will be from 12pm - 4pm, to allow adequate time for the second half of the strategic planning session and to cover other OCFW business.

Chair Spencer thanked Amy for facilitating the session.

IV. Public Comment – there was no public comment.

V. OCFW New Business
A. Women of Achievement (WOA) Awards selections
Chair Spencer reviewed the criteria for nominating a WOA award winner. Commissioners' top choices were tallied and after discussion the winners were selected, in no particular order:
Jan Campbell, Donna Maxey, Kay Toran and Gwen Trice. It is the OCFW’s custom to roll those who were not selected to the following year one time. Sheila Hamilton and Pam Patton will be added to the 2016 nominations. The press release about the winners will come out in January and also be posted on the website at the same time.

The awards ceremony will be in March, to coincide with Women's History Month, ideally with the Governor’s participation. Barbara will contact nominators of the winners and the nominators of those who did not win.

Nancy will submit a request for the Governor's participation at a proclamation signing and awards ceremony in the first half of March. The proclamation signing and awards presentation will be held at the Capitol in the Governor's Ceremonial Room, and then move to the Governor's Conference Room to celebrate the winners with simple refreshments for them, guests and the OCFW Commissioners. The Governor is a past awardee and Nancy will include that information in the request. Past WOA awardees and legislators will be invited.

B. Corvallis OCFW meeting debrief
The Commissioners shared positive comments about their regular meeting in September which was held in Corvallis and had a great turnout of those who live and/or work in the Corvallis area. They agreed that they would like to have at least one of their six meetings per year in a location other than Portland or Salem.

Nancy will create a listserv or mailing group from the email addresses collected at the September meeting. The OCFW would like to continue to grow their mailing list to share legislative priorities, send the biennial report and solicit nominations for the Women of Achievement awards, upcoming events, resources, programs, job openings, open appointments and post questions.

VI. Administrator’s Report
A. Introducing OACO’s new .5 FTE Policy Analyst – Ty Schwoeffermann thanked the Commission for his warm welcome. He looks forward to getting to know the OACs and supporting their advocacy and policy research agendas.
B. NLO Scholarships revisited – this item was tabled due to time constraints.
C. Commissioner Travel Reimbursements – this item was tabled due to time constraints.

VII. Good of the Order
   A. Next OCFW meeting Friday, January 15th, 2016 from 12pm – 4pm.
   B. Other announcements - There were none.

VIII. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 3:04pm.