Minutes
Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW)
Friday, July 19, 2013, 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
Commissioners: Barbara Spencer, Jenny Greenleaf, Mariahm Stephenson, Stephanie Swanson
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer
Guests: Frank Garcia, Governor’s Office; Jodi Ballard-Beach, Chair, Friends of the OCFW; Jenny Lee Berry, Governor’s Office; Elizabeth Nye, Girls, Inc.; Leanne Littrell DiLorenzo, VoteERA.org

I. Call to Order
The Commission was called to order at 12:08 pm. Quorum was established.

II. Adoption of the Agenda
MOTION (Spencer/Greenleaf): Adopt agenda. CARRIED.

III. Approval of Minutes
MOTION (Burch/Spencer): To approve the minutes of 5.31.13 as written. CARRIED.

IV. OCFW Old Business
A. Women of Achievement Awards (WOA)
   Nancy will post the nomination form and instructions on the OCFW website next week.

Jodi Ballard-Beach shared her ideas for the upcoming Women of Achievement Awards. 2014 will be the 50th year for OCFW, and the 30th year for the Women of Achievement Awards. Jodi Ballard-Beach consulted with an events expert at the Oregon College of Arts and Crafts for some suggestions. Jodi suggests to collect contact information for all past OCFW Commissioners, and invite them to a meet & greet in September or October to renew relationships. They would also be asked to support the WOA awards in the spring of 2014. The OCFW would like the Governor to attend and speak at this event which would also coincide with a joint resolution in honor of the awardees. Frank Garcia commented that the Governor would be interested in attending this event, which will take place in Portland in April 2014.
Jodi is looking to commission another artist to create the gifts for the WOA awardees, which will probably be a pendant. Frank Garcia suggested Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for women, and will send Jodi contact information.

Jodi also recommended the Commissioners consider organizing an annual event in September, possibly a luncheon, to close out 2014. It was also suggested that the OCFW develop a regular update to send to past Commissioners and WOA Awardees. Past Commissioners who have been supportive will be invited to the October 2013 meet-and-greet.

There have been approximately 70 WOA Awards and 50 former Commissioners. The meet-and-greet will be casual and needs a venue that can hold approximately 50 people. Commissioners were asked to send their ideas to Jodi. She also needs assistance in researching past awardees and Commissioners and will send a list of the former Commissioners and awardees to see if anyone knows them. The Commissioners agreed that these plans are in line with their outreach plans.

Jodi is also building the Friends website and would like to do a yearbook of past Commissioners. Promoting past Commissioners’ accomplishments is great publicity.

V. OCFW New Business
A. New opportunities for involvement
Chair Vardavas attended the World Domination Summit for entrepreneurs, and is interested in supporting and facilitating women entrepreneur meet-ups around the state in every county. The purpose would be to connect Oregon women with resources and fellow female entrepreneurs. These entrepreneurs could be promoted on the OCFW website and on Facebook. She is also interested in collaborating with the other Advocacy Commissions once this project is up and running.

It was noted that Cheryl Myers, Director of Economic and Business Equity in the Governor’s Office, is a good contact. Frank Garcia said Cheryl is presenting the Governor’s Marketplace as a roadshow around the state. This will begin late August/early September.

Vice Chair Burch commented that this is happening in rural Oregon as well.

B. Legislative Wrap-up
The 4 Advocacy Commissions testified 20 times this Legislative session, which is a record for the OAC’s. Nancy created an Advocacy page in the left navigation bar on the Commission websites which has been updated to reflect which bills passed with hotlinks to the actual testimony for each bill.

Frank Garcia noted that Oregon is much more inclusive this year than it has been historically. Protected classes fared better because of a pragmatic bi-partisan strategy. Minorities became representatives in government. He thanked the Commissioners for their leadership and for serving as a role model for other communities. He asked the
Commissioners to consider: what are the next bills to support? He added that the Governor looks forward to the annual Women of Achievement Awards event.

Chair Vardavas said Commissioners are welcome to contact Frank Garcia and Jenny Lee Berry for future conversations on proposed legislation.

It was agreed that this legislative session the OCFW built alliances with legislators. Senator Steiner-Hayward was welcoming and supportive and the OCFW will continue to engage her.

Chair Vardavas noted that the OACO needs at least 4 full time staff to support the currently planned work of the Advocacy Commissions and will work with the OCFW and other Commissions to advocate for this with legislators as the next budget is prepared.

C. Update on OCFW Planned and Scheduled Work:

Chair Vardavas will start contacting nonprofits regarding the mentoring project.

The next OCFW meeting will be September 20th and extended to 5 hours to focus on the strategic plan.

Commissioner Spencer is working on a new Commissioner handbook. Lucy will ask the other Advocacy Commissions if they are interested in this handbook.

Chair Vardavas is meeting with Linda Tomassi, the Executive Director of Oregon Women Lawyers, regarding the Oregon Commission for Women’s “Women and the Law” book.

Lucy explained that in the current biennium the OACO has funds to pay for a work-study student, for 10 hours per week, for the biennium. Chair Vardavas would like a work-study student to focus on the Status of Oregon Women report, which is an important part of the Commission’s community outreach.

D. Potential new members:
The OCFW is looking for new members with certain skills. In June Chair Vardavas reached out at the last OAC joint forum to the other Commissions, seeking new Commissioner candidates. The next Executive Appointments session is in September. Send names of possible candidates to Kendall, Frank, Jenny, Lucy or Nancy.

E. “Like” the OCFW Facebook page:
Commissioners were asked to invite their network to “like” the OCFW Facebook page.

F. “Collective Impact Model” presentation – Jodi Ballard-Beach and Elizabeth Nye
Jodi Ballard-Beach spoke to the Commission about her vision of a new direction for the partnership between the OCFW and the Friends of the OCFW. It is based on a framework called the Collective Impact Model.

The Status of Oregon Women Report would benefit from more infrastructure, so it is easier to keep up-to-date. The Friends would oversee and coordinate the various organizations who would be involved. The OCFW and the Friends are uniquely positioned to oversee this project: the OCFW is part of the Executive branch of Oregon state government and the Friends are already a nonprofit.

A goal would be to be as inclusive as possible when seeking partners: Women in protected classes, LGBTQ, women of color, females of all ages. The output of this model is new legislation improving the lives of women and girls. Every biennium and session there could be new legislation.

Jodi submitted a preliminary proposal to Meyer Memorial Trust about this idea and she will hear from them by September 16, 2013.

The Commissioners were in agreement about this proposal. A vote will be taken by email and it will be ratified at the September meeting.

It was noted that the Friends of the OCFW are seeking more volunteers and Friends, particularly women with Communication and Marketing experience.

The OCFW thanked Jodi and Elizabeth for their excellent presentation.

VI. Good of the Order
A. The next OCFW meeting is Friday, September 20th and will be from 11am – 4pm, 800 NE Oregon Street, Room 612, Portland, OR 97232.

B. Other Announcements
Lucy handed out copies of the new OACO brochure and the OCFW’s Annual Report to legislators. She would like to leave copies of the brochure in public areas in the tri-county area and welcomes suggestions. One idea was to place them in the Central Library’s designated area.

Commissioner Swanson, the newest OCFW Commissioner introduced herself. She has expertise in marketing, public policy & communications. Sustainability is her specialty.

VII. Public Comment
Leanne Littrell DiLorenzo commented that she is moving forward with a ballot initiative one the ERA. Legislative Counsel was not concerned about VoteERA.org’s ballot initiative. Legislative Counsel mentioned that the Legislative bill HJR 35 needed to be addressed legally as SJR 21 and HJR 24 had.

VIII. Adjourn
MOTION (Spencer/Swanson): To adjourn. CARRIED
The meeting was adjourned at 2:01pm.