MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women
Friday, January 11, 2013
12:00pm - 3:00 pm
Portland State Office Building
800 NE Oregon St., Room 221
Portland, OR 97232

ATTENDEES
Chair: Stephanie Vardavas (phone)
Commissioners: Jenny Greenleaf, Sunny Petit, Megan Jacquot (phone), Mariahm Stephenson, Cynthia Scheines
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer
Guests: Hanna Love from Sen. Monnes Anderson’s Office; Kendall Clawson, Director, Executive Appointments; Cheryl Myers, Director, Governor’s Office on Business Equity; Lisa Arkin, Director, Beyond Toxics; Jen Coleman, Outreach, Oregon Environmental Council; Kimberly Sutton, Deputy, Governor’s Office on Business Equity

I. Call to Order
Chair Vardavas called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm. A quorum was established.

II. Approval of the agenda
The Commissioners reviewed the agenda and approved it by common consent.

III. Approval of the minutes
The Commissioner reviewed minutes from the September 2012 meeting.
MOTION (Greenleaf/Stephenson): Approve the minutes as written. CARRIED

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the November 2012 meeting.
MOTION (Scheines/Greenleaf): Approve the minutes as written. CARRIED

IV. Welcome and introductions
The Commissioners introduced themselves and guests. They welcomed Kendall Clawson, Director of Executive Appointments with the Governor’s Office.

Kendall thanked the Commission for their good work and discussed the ratio of men and women serving on Oregon Boards and Commissions: 57% male, 43% female serving on all boards and commissions. She noted that the Commission’s work on pursuing gender parity should be submitted to Frank Garcia, OCFW’s policy advisor in the Governor’s Office.

V. Presentation on environmental issue re: Integrated Pest Management
Lisa Arkin – Beyond Toxics. Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Ms. Larkin presented information on a decision tree her non-profit group has developed on environmental solutions to eliminating pests before using pesticides. She discussed the importance of making such a tool available for schools and public property owned by the state or Oregon and managed by state agencies. Children and pregnant women are at heightened health risk for exposure to pesticides. Because all schools and public lands must now practice IPM, Lisa is asking the OCFW to support a state IPM bill that includes resources for decision makers.

The bill would protect Oregonians from pesticides, particularly the frequency of children’s exposure to pesticides at public and private schools. All schools (public and private) now must practice IPM. Ms Arkin would like this bill approved for public property owned by the state of Oregon and managed by state agencies. The State has a moral obligation to protect its citizens.

The OCFW thanked Ms. Larkin for her presentation and will watch for the IPM Bill when it becomes available and consider it for support.

VI. Presentation on environmental issue re: banning dangerous chemicals

Jen Coleman, OR Environmental Council, presented a bill sponsored by Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer and Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward that seeks to ban certain chemicals from use in home environments. Many consumer products contain reproductive toxins or carcinogens but currently it is up to manufacturers to advise the Oregon Health Authority if a component of their product that is not manufactured by them includes such chemicals. A bill currently in effect in the state of Washington requires such reporting to the state. Passing such a bill in Oregon would not increase the burden of reporting for the manufacturers. They would send what they currently report to Washington State to Oregon. Green Chemistry Centers can help formulate alternative additives for products.

The OCFW thanked Ms. Coleman for her presentation and will consider the bill for their support.

VII. Old Business

Ratification of sponsorship pledge: The OCFW agreed in December to support the joint Legislative Day with the AAUW and League of Women Voters. They pledged a sponsorship of $100 to help with the costs of room rental in the Capitol and other related expenses.

MOTION (Greenleaf/Petit): To ratify the OCFW pledge in December of $100 in support of the Joint Legislative Day with to AAUW. CARRIED.

Action List: The Commission reviewed its Action Item list. After discussion, they agreed that the League of Women Voters will take the lead on a legislator breakfast in the summer. Commissioner Petit will contact them regarding a date and to offer the help of the OCFW.
Status of Oregon Women Report: Commissioner Greenleaf updated the Commission on preparing the 2013 Status of OR Women report. Each Commissioner has volunteered to help with writing individual sections of the report and Jenny is expecting their drafts next week. She is currently compiling the statistical portion of the report on a number of subjects. The data was prepared for the OCFW by 3 public policy interns working over the past year on health, wage equity, and incarcerated women who have provided some helpful data. She will mention the OCFW’s public policy interns in the report.

VIII. New Business

NEW BUSINESS

Mentors for new Commissioners: Chair Vardavas discussed her interest in pairing seasoned OCFW Commissioners with new Commissioners to help with orientation and mentoring on Commissioner roles and opportunities. She asked all interested Commissioners to contact her to be a mentor or to request a mentor.

WOA Awards moving to the spring: Chair Vardavas noted that the OCFW will now be conducting the Women of Achievement Awards in the Spring and will plan to host a fundraising event, perhaps a luncheon, in association with it. She will set a meeting with Jodi Ballard, Chair of the Friends of OCFW, to discuss it and other fundraising opportunities and all interested Commissioners are invited to participate in the discussion.

Preparing for 2013 legislative session

The Commission discussed its approach for tracking bills, prioritizing and testifying in support of legislation in the upcoming session. The OCFW is partnering with AAUW and the League of Women Voters for a Legislative Day next week. Megan Jacquot plans to attend and Cynthia Scheines as well. They will report back.

The OCFW’s bill on confidential name change for DV survivors will be among those tracked and supported along with a number of other bills including those supported by the OWAHA.

During session, the OACO will be sending customized reports to each Commission, at least once a week. These reports will include information on scheduled hearings and referring bills to committees. Nancy Kramer is attending training on the tracking software called LINUS next week and will be helping Lucy prepare the reports.

Commissioner Greenleaf suggested breaking up the OCFW’s bill tracking by topic with each Commissioner tracking a set of bills and alerting all when testimony is needed: someone on healthcare, someone on education. She would like everyone to have a part. Jenny will work with the Office to prepare a SurveyMonkey survey to help with prioritizing. It worked well in past sessions. Sunny noted that BOLI is sponsoring bills on public accommodation and Section 8 housing discrimination that will be important to support.

It was agreed that along with the priorities of the Oregon Women’s Health and Wellness Alliance, the OCFW priorities will include:
- The OCFW name change bill for domestic violence survivors
- Housing issue- inclusionary zoning
- Retaining Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)
- Supporting the labor commissioner’s work around equal pay and non discrimination

**OHEA membership**
Commissioner Stephenson reported that there is a coalition of community groups organizing to help represent issues of important to immigrant communities in the 2013 session. It is called the Oregon Health Equity Alliance and it is supporting 5 items on its policy agenda:
- Cultural competency for health professionals
- Ethnic racial data analysis and tracking
- Drivers License restoration for OR immigrants
- Tuition equity for undocumented students who have completed HS in Oregon
- Prenatal care for undocumented women

She has an application to join OHEA and asked the OCFW to consider membership and supporting the OHEA policy agenda. After discussion the Commission agreed and asked Commissioner Stephenson to represent them on the OHEA.

**MOTION** (Petit/Greenleaf): To appoint Commissioner Stephenson to represent the OCFW on the OHEA. **CARRIED**

Next OCFW planning meetings:
Day-long planning meeting(s) will be scheduled on April 26th or Sept 20th and will be finalized when the new OCFW Commissioners are appointed in March.

**Governor’s proclamation for Women’s History Month**
Commissioner Petit offered to review the current wording of the proclamation, suggest any changes or additions to the OCFW and share them with the Governor’s office. After discussion, the Commission decided to invite Dr. Rudy Crew to participate in the proclamation ceremony to discuss his commitment to leadership of girls and young women in Oregon schools and into the work force.

The OCFW partnered with the PSU Center for Women, Politics and Policy to print the *Oregon Women Firsts* poster of women in leadership throughout Oregon history. Because of the OCFW financial sponsorship, it was able to be mailed to 720+ schools. The OCFW is interested in exploring further partnership opportunities with the Center.

*Commissioner Scheines excused herself from the proceedings at this point and the Commission lost its quorum. No further votes were entertained.*

**IX. New Business**

**Commissioner Reports:**
Chair Vardavas reported on the upcoming presentation of the Commission Chairs before City Club of Portland on February 8th. It will focus on the 30th anniversary of several of the
Commissions and the work of the Commissions. Everyone is invited to attend or listen to the podcast. The presentation will be posted at each of the Commission websites.

Chair Vardavas reported that she plans to attend the National Association of Commissions for Women Conference in July. She asked if any other Commissioners wish to attend as well. She would like to explore having the OCFW host one of its conferences in future years in Portland.

There being no further Commissioner reports, the Commission welcomed Cheryl Myers and Kimberly Sutton, Governor’s Office of Economic and Business Equity.

Cheryl reported that DAS is conducting a pilot sheltered market program for certified businesses, $50K and below. The pilot will be in effect for a year, and then they plan to roll it out on a state level. Starting in April DAS will have an online application process and automated processes for contractors. There is other good news regarding Business Oregon, which no longer has a backlog of businesses waiting for certification.

Cheryl also noted that she is one of 2 Vision 2020 Oregon delegates, working with the other delegate, Gail Castillo. Last year, Portland hosted the national Vision 2020 conference and in 2013 there will be a regional conference in Oregon on December 4th. The location has not yet been announced.

The Commission thanked Cheryl for her report.

Chair Vardavas led the OCFW in thanking Commissioner Sunny Petit for her service on the Commission and her leadership. She has been a wonderful Chair and Commissioner. The OCFW is looking forward to continued work with Sunny in partnership with the Center.

Administrator’s Report
Lucy Baker announced that with the support of the Commission Chairs she has been selected for a scholarship to Leadership Oregon which is the DAS training for state leaders. The training begins in January and runs for a year, meeting in Salem 2 days each month on a variety of topics.

Lucy discussed the OACO budget and General Fund projections at the end of the biennium. She hopes to have an accurate assessment of the projected amount of GF. At the end of each biennium, the Commissions consider any unspent funds and approve expenditure on areas that support their missions and the OACO support. She hopes to have the projection sent to the Commissions by the end of February.

Adjourn
The Commission adjourned by common consent at 2:52 pm.