NOTES
Oregon Commission for Women
January 20, 2012
3:00 – 6:00pm, Room 308U
Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office, 527 SW Hall St.
Portland, OR 97201

ATTENDEES
Chair: Sunny Petit
Vice Chair: Jenny Greenleaf
Commissioners: Stephanie Vardavas, Mariahm Stephenson (phone)
Guests: Jodi Ballard, the Standard
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to Order
Chair Petit called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm.
Quorum was not established.

II. OCFW Follow-up Business
Resource List:
Commissioners Stephenson, Kwon and Chair Petit are working on a Women’s Resource list. Jean Laubinger, OCFW’s intern, is doing research online to help build and verify the accuracy of the resource list. They are focusing on identifying government resources. Nancy Kramer will post it on the OCFW website when it is completed.

Office Update:
Nancy gave a brief update on the state’s website migration from the TeamSite platform to Sharepoint: both the OCFW and the OAC web pages are in the pilot group.

Commissioners Submit Key Performance Measure Contact info to OACO:
Commissioners were reminded to add names of those they have contacted regarding OCFW business to the OCFW listserv. They will be included as recipients for OCFW satisfaction surveys. The Commissioners discussed the Key Performance Measures (KPMs) which are annual satisfaction surveys administered for all Commissions. This year, the OCFW is working to send a satisfaction survey to individuals shortly after they interact with the Commission.

Commissioner Vardavas offered to review the current survey questions and improve its focus on engagement questions, such as: do people feel heard, respected and understood?
Did they get the information they were seeking? Nancy or Lucy will send Commissioner Vardavas the OAC’s current list of performance questions.

Women of Achievement 2011:
Commissioner Shimada was unable to send out thank you notes to the Governor and others associated with the 2011 Women of Achievement Awards. Chair Petit sent out Happy New Year thank you’s instead and they were well received.

Appointment of Jodi Ballard to the Friends of the Commission for Women:
Jodi Ballard introduced herself. She has an MS in Political Science, is a Project Manager at the Standard and her background is in process analysis. She has always been interested in women’s issues. She is interested in working on the next OCFW annual report. The Commissioners welcomed Jodi and thanked her for her interest.

Jodi can be reached at Jodi.ballard@gmail.com

Connecting to Our Community:
Last year, the OCFW convened a meeting with Frank Garcia, the Mid-Valley Women’s Center, Cynthia Rauscher of the AAUW, Andrea Paluso of Family Forward Oregon, Nova Newcomer working on mass transit issues for families, and Alice Bartelt of the League of Women Voters. It was a success, and Chair Petit recommended reconvening it this year. It was noted that Jodi Ballard has done a World Café event in the past, which connects people through stories shared around specific themes. Once people feel comfortable talking with one another they are more willing to move into deeper questions and issues. The Commissioners expressed their interest in using this model in the future.

There was interest in bringing back organizations that attended last year, as well as bringing in organizations that support food security, health care, Oregon Tradeswomen and eliminating human trafficking. A goal is to have these organizations view OCFW as a convening group, and if they consider creating new legislation or becoming involved with other state agencies, they would consider OCFW as a resource. It was also suggested that consideration be given as to how to engage media coverage for the event, by involving a person with a high profile as the emcee and/or facilitator.

The Bus Project was cited as a useful model. They focus on specific areas, invite people to pitch legislative initiatives and the attendees vote for which initiatives are key issues. This would outsource the development of policy initiatives and put the OCFW in the role of polishing and crafting coalitions around policy.

Jodi Ballard will compile a list of women’s organizations in Oregon. It was suggested that she begin by contacting the Secretary of State’s office. Jodi will build a scenario for an event involving these organizations.

It was mentioned that Sharepoint, the new online platform for state web pages, has a polling feature. Nancy will look into this and report back.
The Commission considered creating a logo for the OCFW that would help them brand themselves.

**Update on the Friends of the Commission for Women:**
It was noted that former chair Sue Castner lodged a complaint with the Department of Justice (DOJ) about the Friends of the Commission for Women, alleging corruption, financial malfeasance, and nepotism. According to the DOJ, the only element of substance in the complaint is that the Friends are not in compliance and the Friends’ checkbook/banking permissions have not been transferred to the new Chair. Friends’ member Kimberly Goddard will work on addressing that.

The other current members of the Friends are Kristin Teigen and Ali Williams. Commissioner Vardavas will contact Kristin Teigen to discuss outreach to potential candidates for the Friends.

**The Centennial Suffrage** group is seeking a $5,000 donation for their statewide traveling suffrage exhibit celebration. The Friends of the OCFW will consider this opportunity to support the group.

**Update on the Status of Oregon Women Report:**
There are two interns working with the OCFW, one of them is a joint intern with the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). Carrie Haddad is working on wage equity and will report out to the OCFW and the Oregon Council on Civil Rights (OCCR) in March 2012. Jean Laubinger is an intern working on women’s resources and public health.

Women’s Equal Pay Day will be on April 17th. If there is sufficient new wage equity data the Civil Rights Division would do a press release. Vice Chair Greenleaf would be the point person to work with the Civil Rights Division on this.

**New Commission Members:**
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson has been appointed to the Commission. She is a nurse and a veteran.
Judge Jeanne Burch submitted her interest form; she is from Wheeler County. Commissioner Karen Shimada’s term will end February 28th.

**III. Chair’s Report**
**Rose Festival Starlight Parade donation:**
Robin Wisdom of the Oregon League of Women Voters has asked the OCFW to donate $700 (towards a full fee of $5000, down from $10,000) to the Starlight Parade- but has been informed the Grand Floral Parade may be a better venue. The Center for Women, Politics and Policy is also interested in participating. This parade is on June 2nd. The Commissioners expressed greater interest in participating in the Grand Floral Parade, which is June 9th, 2012.

The OCFW have asked the Friends of the OCFW to donate $700 on the OCFW’s behalf. There was discussion about bringing other women’s organization together to make a
group donation. Century of Action and the Girl Scouts (2012 is their 100th anniversary) are possibilities. Commissioner Vardavas has a possible contact to the Girl Scouts and will reach out to them. It was suggested that miniature Payday candy with info attached (to raise awareness of wage equity) be thrown out to the crowd as the women walk by in the parade. First Lady of Oregon Cylvia Hayes was mentioned as a possible guest of the OCFW, along with one female legislative member of each party.

Vice Chair Greenleaf, Commissioner Vardavas and Chair Petit will put together an outreach plan, if the LWVOR raises enough money for the parade to happen.

Chair Petit will contact Girls Inc. about their proposed She Flies with her own Wings report (looking at status of women and girls in Multnomah County). It was noted that the report would cost approximately $80,000 and the YWCA and Girls Inc may be having a hard time raising funds.

Chair Petit will also send information to Commissioner Vardavas regarding the Multnomah County Committee working on ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

Gender Parity Bill with the Governor’s Office:
Representative Betty Komp and Chair Petit requested a meeting with the Governor’s counsel, Liani Reeves, on gender parity on boards and commissions. Chair Petit also discussed the matter with Kendall Clawson, Director of Executive Appointments. In Oregon there are currently 56% women serving on Commissions and Boards overall, but this is not represented on individual commissions. Iowa is a pioneer in gender parity on this issue, passing a gender parity bill in 1987. This was eventually expanded to all political subdivisions in Iowa. Half of Iowa’s Commission for Woman Commissioners are men. Their publication, “Recruiting Gender Balanced Boards & Commissions - A Guide for Cities and Counties”, was reviewed by the Commissioners. Iowa’s bill stipulates that if a qualified person cannot be found to balance gender on a particular board, no position will remain open for more than 3 months. www.women.iowa.gov

Joint Chairs Meeting:
The Joint Chairs met and discussed the issue of Fair Housing. The Chairs met with Representative Tina Kotek, who encouraged the Commissions’ help with furthering policy and supporting legislation on fair housing for the Oregon 2013 Legislative session.

Section 8 housing discrimination is illegal in only 4 places in United States. John Van Landingham from Eugene is a fair housing advocate but notes it may be seen as a primarily urban issue.

It was noted that there is also employment-related discrimination, which is not illegal. Mothers are a large group encountering employment discrimination - this would be a statewide issue.
Daniel Ledezma of the Portland Housing Bureau was unable to attend the Joint Chairs meeting, so this will be rescheduled.

IV. **Commissioner Reports**
Commissioner Greenleaf drafted an end of year report including Commission photos and bills the Commission testified for, and emailed it out to the Commissioners for review. Lucy will tally the number of bills for which the OCFW testified and send to the Vice Chair.

Commissioner Vardavas explained a bill she proposed that may be introduced during session regarding victims of sex trafficking. It allows a minor with a prostitution conviction to have the criminal charges expunged when they turn 18, if they have no felony or Class D misdemeanors. The principal sponsor is Representative Jefferson Smith. The Commissioner forwarded an article about sex trafficking to Ben Cannon, her former Representative, who felt the issue could become legislation. Commissioner Vardavas then brought it to Representative Alyssa Keny-Guyer, her new representative. The draft version of the bill is expected to receive only minor amendments.

There was a brief discussion around the word “termination” which in the context of the bill draft means a person’s last interaction with the criminal justice system.

Commissioner Stephenson met with Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA) Commissioner Lorraine Wilson and OCBA Member Senator Monroe. Commissioner Stephenson will send the minutes from that meeting to Nancy to be added to the minutes of this meeting (attached). She learned that women in Oregon have a very high rate of miscarriages and birth defects.

Commissioner Stephenson attended the quarterly meeting of the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF). Many groups gave testimony and Oregon Toxic Alliance in West Eugene reported on illness in children. She was asked if the OCFW had any outstanding issues to be investigated. The OCFW asked Commissioner Stephenson to put together a list of recommended topics for the EJTF.

**Education Issues:**
Chair Petit and Vice Chair Greenleaf attended an education briefing by Ben Cannon. He tentatively said yes to a joint internship on educational disparities with the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Oregon Department of Education Superintendent Susan Castillo reached out to the OCFW seeking support regarding the education waiver.

The Commissioners discussed other issues, which included:
A proposal to send out press releases when new Commissioners are appointed to the OCFW. There is also interest in using Facebook for OCFW polls, surveys, a meet the Commissioners segment, and possibly a blog. Commissioner Vardavas will take the lead on refreshing the Facebook page(s).
Interest in reviewing and updating the strategic plan each year. Commissioner Greenleaf will resurrect the white board notes from the strategic plan meeting in August 2011.

Interest in working in raising awareness among girls about STEM careers. This could include sponsoring meetings with Women of Achievement (WOA) award winners and 5th grade classes and bringing female role models in to schools on career day in different counties. Commissioner Jacquot is on the school board and is also a member of the Parent Teacher Association and may have some insights on this topic.

The cultural commissions (OCAPIA, OCBA and OCHA) want to work with the Commission for Women on WOA nominees for this year. It was suggested that a sub-committee be created to conduct outreach for the WOA. In past years the OAC sent out a press release for this event. Gina Warren, Vice President of Diversity at NIKE, was mentioned as a possible nominee. It is important that nominees represent a wide range of geographical and cultural diversity.

The League of Women Voters is organizing a Legislative Day in Salem, on February 7, 2012. Vice Chair Greenleaf will create a one-page list of the OCFW-supported bills to hand out to legislators. Vice Chair Greenleaf will come by the OAC Office to help create the list of bills of interest, Commissioners will vote on them and then Vice Chair Greenleaf will create the flyer.

Vice Chair Greenleaf is working on the 2011 OCFW Activities List and needs all elements by January 27th. When the list is completed Nancy will post the list on the OCFW web site.

V. Administrator’s Report
Lucy Baker reported on the budget: currently there is $4,125 in the OCFW account (a combination of stipends for nine Commissioners meeting every other month for two years and approximately $650 in travel reimbursement money for two years). Lucy recommended the two amounts be combined and managed like fund, to be spent as the OCFW wishes.

The OAC Office will query the Commissioners as to whether they want to accept stipends or donate them to the Commission. This led to a discussion on voting by email. Vice Chair Greenleaf will write up a protocol for voting by email.

VI. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 6:06pm
# Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting attended by:** Commissioners: Lorraine Wilson (OCBA), Clifford Walker (OCBA), and Mariah Stephenson (OCFW)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absent from meeting:</th>
<th>Samaura Stone (OCBA)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>October 11, 2011</td>
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<td>Time:</td>
<td>6 p.m. to 7 p.m.</td>
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## Agenda Topic #1: 2012 Legislative Session

(Commissioner Wilson)

2012 Legislative Session limited by 35 days

Normally it is reserved for rebalancing the budget on updated financial & political information. May be looking at a 200M cut.

Need to pay strong attention to cuts in upcoming session. Focus on how the cuts will impact the communities we represent.

Errors in the legislative can be corrected at this session. Monitor any bills that may be introduced. It is not usually but there can be bills introduced.

Every Commissioner should be aware of the Legislative process. There is a website: [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us), which provides information about the process.

Our role as a Commission: Prepare bills, partner on bills, support bills.

## Agenda Topic #2: Support other Organizations in 2012 Session

(Commissioner Stephenson)

The Commissions should consider supporting other organizations that have same or similar focus areas.

### Action Items:
- Provide public testimony for bills
- Endorse bills
- Partner on bills

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<th>Agenda Topic #3: Vote/Hate Crime laws of Oregon</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Commissioner Walker)</td>
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<td>Are Oregon felons (men and women) allowed to vote in Oregon? We need to know because it could make a difference during in the outcome of an election.</td>
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<td>Oregon has no law on hate crimes. The closest law is &quot;Intimidation in the 2nd degree. We need to find out more and push the idea of a &quot;hate crime&quot; law. There is a website that records hate crime, but no actual law.</td>
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Next meeting will be held on March 2, 2012 at 6 p.m.