MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women
Thursday, September 2, 2010
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Sussman Shank
1211000 SW Broadway, Suite 1400
Portland, OR 97205-3089

ATTENDEES
Chairwoman: Sue Castner
Commissioners: Megan Jacquot (phone), Rep. Betty Komp, Sunny Petit
Speakers: Robyn Fountain (YWCA of Portland), Danny Santos (Governor’s Office - phone)
Guests: Erika Nebel, Brian Worley (Sen. Schrader’s office)
Staff: Lucy Baker, Joy Howard

I. Call to Order, Welcome, and Roll Call
Meeting called to order by Chair Castner at 11:35 a.m. a quorum was not established.

Erika announced that she has been newly appointed as a Commissioner for the OCFW and will be going through the approval process with the legislature. The Commission congratulated her.

II. Adoption of agenda and approval of July minutes
The approval of the agenda and minutes were held until a quorum was established.

III. Update from Danny Santos, Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor
Upcoming Session:
- Chair Castner encouraged commissioners to get to know the legislators on the Ways and Means committee and continue to fight for the continued funding of the commissions
- Representative Komp reported briefly on the update she has received. Currently they are preparing lists of sweeps.

Danny Santos joined the Commission by phone. He thanked the Commission for their good work and noted that historically, the OCFW has remained engaged even during times of eliminated budget.

Fiscal Revenue Issues
1) Revenue shortage - 377.5 million
2) DHS shortfalls will be made up with federal funding and Education will receive a federal appropriation. The Oregon legislature will be helping fill budget holes for education and DHS.

3) Agency heads have been requested to cut an additional 8% budget cut to help with the growing budget shortfall of 377 million in the State budget. These cuts are across the board cuts of General fund agencies. We have already submitted 9% cuts that will take effect on October 1st.

Advocating
Danny noted that the Commissions will need to work with legislators to maintain their funding. To put things in perspective the entire Commission budget is smaller than rounding errors in the State budget. Danny noted that the Commissions have a strong case to make on its contribution in Oregon and have legislators be supportive.

Transition Team
After the November 2 elections, Danny will be working with the new Governor for transition. He will be working with Lucy and the Joint Chairs to provide the briefing.

IV. Who’s keeping an eye on the upcoming session?
1) Oregon Women’s Health and Wellness Alliance
Chair Castner reported that she will be working with the Alliance and keeping the OCFW in the loop

2) YWCA/Transitional Opportunities Project – Robyn Fountain
Robyn Fountain reported that the YWCA has 4 service lines: senior services; domestic violence services; after school tutoring and mentoring; and a re-entry center for women being released from prison and also transitional housing for women leaving abusive relationships.

The funding sources for these include a major contract for federal dollars through Corrections and another with Multnomah County. Annually they serve between 90 – 120 women. In 2012 they plan to open a Human Trafficking Center placement of preference for DHS workers who want clients to be successful and women who are pregnant. There is also a YWCA in Salem that is focused on Domestic Violence.

How can OCFW help?
Help keep awareness high on the needs of incarcerated women rejoining the community. The effects of abuse and trauma close many avenues and raise barriers facing these women. It reduces the number of employment options for them. The Commission thanked Robyn for her report

3) The Mother PAC – Co-Founder Sunny Petit
Mother PAC is focused on funding candidates who support employment related daycare, paid family leave, access to childcare, and the BPA ban. She shared 2 handouts on the subjects. Discussion followed. The work of Rep. Betty Komp and other legislators have been so supportive of these issues. The Commissioners thanked Sunny and Representative Komp for their work.
Chair Castner encouraged all the Commissioners to work with their legislators to support these family supportive issues. The downturn is creating an upswing in domestic violence and other complications.

Mother PAC’s launch party will be on October 15th at the Eco Trust in the Pearl.

V. Nomination and election of Vice Chair
The vote will be taken by e-mail to nominate Sunny Petit as Vice Chair and conduct the vote.

VI. Outreach & Supporting Other organizations
Chair Castner discussed the importance of providing support for young women to attend the Emerging Leaders conference. She noted that she will conduct an email vote to cover with OCFW
1) Brunch Scholarships to Girl Scouts & NEW Leadership Oregon
2) Tables at Hispanic Heritage Dinner ($125/pp, 9/9) & NLO Luncheon ($100/00, 10/7)

VII. Women of Achievement Brunch Update
1) Tickets sold - Paid attendees: 134, All attendees: 150
2) Silent Auction & Wall of Wine items - KinkFM is running a spot about the Brunch. OSU has donated 2 athletic tickets, and other great donations have been coming in for the silent auction. Blazer tickets have been donated.
3) Gift Bags - There are chocolate and cookies for the gift bags, and passes for the Columbia Sportswear employee store.

On Friday, Sue will be resending e-invitations and asks all Commissioners to boost them to friends. Renee Mitchell will MC, and Kate Brown will speak. Amy Roloff will also be attending.

VIII. OACO Update
1) Budget proposals. Lucy reported on the OACO budget and proposed cuts at the 5%, 10%, and 25% levels.
2) Strategic Plan: Lucy reported on the key areas of the strategic plan: leadership development, growing community outreach, and creating internships. She noted that the long term plans of the OACO are the areas that would be lost at the 25% cut level which includes cutting the OACO Admin to .5FTE.

IX. Good of the Order
1) Sunny reported that the League of Minority Voters is hosting a Civil Rights Conference is happening on October 14th in Eugene. Sunny would like to attend for the Commission.
2) Sunny and Robyn discussed the importance of outreach to local women who are abused.

X. Adjournment at 1:37 p.m.