



**Baltimore County Commission for Women
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, February 21, 2019**

Present: Vonzella Perry, Ruth Howard, Carmen Christiana, Sheila Derman, Jacqui Lampell, Brenda Savoy, Cecelia Myrick, Frances Smith, Sabrina Jones, Emily Hunter, Cheryl Brooks, Nitsa Zdziera, Helene Waranch

Excused Absences: Kimberly Bowen, Kelly Carter, Bella Owens, Jennie Fernandez, Lynda Stahl, Renee McGuirk-Spence, Teresa Messler

Unexcused Absences: Dorothy Foos

Call to Order: 6:07 p.m. by President Vonzella Perry

Minutes of the December Meeting: December meeting minutes were moved, seconded and approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$9,274.95 Expenses \$413.97, ending balance \$8,860.98

President's Report: Vonzella welcomed members and introduced Debbie Risper, Director, Baltimore County Office of Community Engagement who was present at the meeting. Debbie spoke about her role with the new administration. There was discussion about conducting meetings via conference calls in the event of inclement weather. A motion was made, seconded and approved. Sabrina will write the language and Carmen will check with the Law Office to see if it needs to be added to the by-laws. There was discussion and a recommendation made that commissioners submit to Vonzella by March 14th their 2019 and projected 2020 budgets. Vonzella read Phyllis' letter of resignation and introduction of Teresa Messler who will be replacing her. Vonzella stated that there would be no March meeting due to the Woman of the Year event taking place on March 28th.

Committee Reports

Women's Health: No report. Sabrina said she would connect with Teresa Messler.

Women's Equality/Diversity: Ruth talked about hosting events focused on "Pay Equity". Events to be held around the county with assigned commissioners to taking the lead in: June-Dundalk/Essex area (Cheryl and Cecelia), Sept.-north county area (Frances), Nov.-Pikesville area (Helene).

Public Policy Agenda: Sheila said things are moving slowly in Annapolis due to many new "freshmen". There is tremendous pressure on the budget, state income tax getting hit and impact on the counties.

Human Trafficking: Bella absent, Carmen provided an update on the Human Trafficking Work Group. The first planned human trafficking initiative, in partnership with GBMC as a pilot hospital, is now in

effect at GBMC and will be polished and written for a final recommendation to the County. The group will meet on March 12 to present the final report after a sub-committee meeting on February 28th. This HT healthcare initiative entails a mandatory annual training on HT for all nursing staff on any healthcare institutions in Baltimore County. It will be done in conjunction with the medical board's recommendation on policy and implementation. HT materials are being printed and distributed to some healthcare facilities in the County. Frances questioned whether it was still necessary to have the Human Trafficking Committee now that the Work Group is underway.

Domestic Violence: Brenda reported that she and Ruth are working on a collaborative event with the BCAC. The event focused on Domestic Violence will take place on April 24th. A motion was made, seconded and approved to co-sponsor this event. Brenda will submit to Vonzella and Carmen the details so Carmen can seek approval from the county for participation and use of the county logo.

Woman of the Year: Date set for March 28, 2019. Selection process is underway and Selection Committee will meet on February 25th to make their selections. There was discussion about hosting this event offsite in the future. Nitsa asked the commissioner's for Girl Scout project ideas for her daughter.

Old Business/New Business:

Meeting Adjourned: 7:31 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2019