



**Baltimore County Commission for Women
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, May 16, 2019**

Present: Ruth Howard, Bella Owens, Carmen Christiana, Kimberly Bowen, Sheila Derman, Jennie Fernandez, Emily Hunter, Sabrina Jones, Jacqui Lampell, Cecelia Myrick, Frances Smith, Renee McGuirk-Spence, Sharon Kehnemui, Dr. Teresa Messler

Excused Absences: Vonzella Perry, Cheryl Brooks, Lynda Stahl, Brenda Savoy, Rosalyn Berkowitz, Nitsa Zdziera, Helene Waranch

Unexcused Absences: Dorothy Foos, Kelly Carter

Call to Order: 6:03 p.m. by Vice President Ruth Howard

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

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$6,193.54 Expenses \$22.00, ending balance \$6,171.54

President's Report: Ruth spoke about a support request received from the Baltimore County Delta for the Foundation's "Stand Down" event. The group assists in breaking the cycle of homelessness, unemployment and disengagement of female veterans. This year's "Stand Down" will commemorate the service of the historic battalion of female veterans known as the "Six Triple Eight". They are requesting the assistance of the Commission for Women in locating a venue and conducting county wide promotion for this commemorative event. Carmen advised that the commission does not create venues but co-sponsors events. It was decided to table for discussion at next month's meeting.

Committee Reports

Women's Health: Dr. Messler distributed a handout on the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP). The program assists with applying for the MCHP and determining Medicaid eligibility.

Women's Equality/Diversity: Ruth will have more information on a September/November event at next month's meeting.

Public Policy Agenda: Sheila will have a full report at next month's meeting.

Human Trafficking: Ruth talked about the Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's "Human Trafficking Discussion" event which took on place April 24, 2019, 6 – 8 p.m. at the CCBC-Catonsville Campus. Both Rosalyn and Vonzella attended.

- **Human Trafficking Work Group:** Kimberly gave a report on the Human Trafficking Work Group. A sub-committee of the group met on Monday, May 20th and discussed the expansion of the

GBMC's SAFE program model to other county hospitals (east and west side) and urgent care facilities. Krista Trahan, BCHHS, submitted policy to the state. Dr. Michael Ford, BCPS, suggested that the group reach out to the three school Community Superintendents who represent the three zones: east, west, and central. Schools focus has been on its ALICE training but Dr. Ford said he would push the work group's agenda. Bella informed the commissioners that Laurie Culkin, Dir. of Anti-Human Trafficking Policy for the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention will attend the next Human Trafficking Work Group meeting in September. The group also reached out to The Samaritan Women/Institute for Shelter Care for a future visit. Jacqui suggested the Commission make a donation to The Samaritan Women. There was discussion about the Friends account, Frances suggested that the Friends account information be included in the annual report. Bella will look into the details and include it in next month's agenda. A Commission for Women Human Trafficking Work Group representative vacancy exists with Kimberly's departure. Those interested in filling the position should contact Bella via e-mail.

Domestic Violence: The group made a motion, seconded, and approved for participation at the LGBT+ Fair being held June 19th from 6-8 PM at the North Point Library in Dundalk. Sharon and Vonzella will staff a table and giveaways will include: bags, pens (reorder), and an updated in-house created brochure.

Carmen introduced Sevetra Peoples, Assistant to the CAO, Stacy L. Rodgers, who joined the meeting to introduce herself in her new role with the county. Sevetra talked about her past experience and offered her assistance on behalf of the CAO. Sevetra apprised the commissioners of the upcoming 2020 Census and the new online option. She will list the Commission for Women as a representative in the Count Committee which helps in pushing the message to stores, banks, etc. More detail to follow.

Old Business/New Business: Bella announced and will provide information for the NACW Conference taking place in Chicago, July 20th – 24th. Frances provided the commissions with the election nomination form for the election of both president and secretary. She will also send via e-mail. As this was Kimberley's last meeting she expressed her heartfelt gratitude and wished the commissioners much luck. Kimberley will continue her work on Human Trafficking back home in Texas.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 20, 2019