



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Department of Administration

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Rhode Island Commission on Women

Full Commission Meeting

Monday February 7, 2005, 5:30 PM

Department of Administration, 2nd Floor Conference Room C

Minutes

Present: Jane M. Anthony, Joyce Dolbec, Catherine Graziano, Mary Anne Miller, Kathy Nadeau, Sarah Rockett, Jan Torres, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo, Camille Vollaro, Cynthia Wilson.

Excused Absent: Helen Christy, Joanne Hill, Lela Morgan, Neena Savage, Kathleen Spangler, Anna Tucker, Linda Newton, Adelita Orefice

Unexcused Absent: Melvoid Benson, Jo Eva Gaines, Robert Watson.

Present, non-voting: Shanna Wells.

Call to Order

Chair Jane M. Anthony called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Presentation by Deb DeBare

Please see attached information distributed by RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) Executive Director Deb DeBare. The RICADV and its six member agencies served 10,000 people and received 22,000 calls to the DV Helpline last year.

At the Commission's request, Ms. DeBare discussed current cases and potential legislative action. The Attorney General's Domestic Violence Task Force (AGDVTF) is presently drafting some legislation that, if passed, would close some loopholes in the laws. The "Carter Case" would add Breaking & Entering to the list of crimes chargeable under DV Laws. The "Martini Case" would regulate the treatment of a Petty Misdemeanor so that it is equal to a Misdemeanor. The Homicide Prevention Bill will be resubmitted again this year, with some changes. Ms. DeBare addressed the Commission's concerns about the police officer exemption, stating that RI's bill will mirror the Federal legislation, so that there are no jurisdictional or enforcement questions. Other bills being considered: enhanced sentencing when DV is committed in the presence of a child; speedy trials for DV victims. The Secretary of State is considering legislation regarding the safety of DV victims' personal information (i.e., addresses) and their absence from public records.

Consent Agenda

Catherine Graziano made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Sarah Rockett seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair's Update

Chair Jane M. Anthony welcomed new Commissioner, Jan Torres.

Shanna Wells had developed and distributed a binder of RICW Position Papers. Chair Jane M. Anthony ask all Commissioners to review them prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Catherine Graziano noted the binder contained Position Papers that were no longer in effect. The Chair stated that she had not yet seen the information distributed and asked Commissioners to review the information with an eye toward relevance, i.e. outdated or position papers which have been replaced by newer positions, any changes necessary to up-date the material, and also to think about what other issues, if any, may warrant the development of a position statement from the Commission

Chair Jane M. Anthony announced that Kathy Nadeau and Marilyn Coccozza Trillo will co-chair the 2005 Woman of the Year (WOY) Event. Mary Anne Miller expressed confusion regarding the role of the co-chair, since Linda Newton is the chair of the Community Awareness Committee. Linda Newton has already called a meeting of the WOY Committee for next week. Chair Jane M. Anthony encouraged the WOY Committee members to raise this issue at that meeting so they can obtain clarity and consensus on roles and responsibilities.

Chair Jane M. Anthony announced the appointment of Sarah Rockett, Cindy Wilson, and Marilyn Coccozza Trillo to the Advisory Committee for the Education Awards. The deadline for submitting applications to the RI Foundation for the RICW Freda H. Goldman Education Award is June 13, 2005. Sarah Rockett will Chair the Advisory Committee and set up the meeting to review the Scholarship Applications after the application period is completed.

Joyce Dolbec made a motion to accept the Chair's Update. Cynthia Wilson seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Director's Report

Please see attached Director's Report and attachments. Short discussion ensued regarding the RICW website and the number of visits. Kathy Nadeau said she would check the counter. Also, a recommendation was made to add the website address to the RICW stationary. Catherine Graziano made a motion to accept the Director's Report. Mary Anne Miller seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports

Health Committee: Chair Mary Anne Miller submitted the "Access to Health Care" paper to the Commissioners. She asked that Commissioners review this paper prior to the next full meeting. This matter will be scheduled for a vote at the March meeting..

Mary Anne Miller stated the Health Committee continues to work on the "Cardiovascular Disease and Women" paper. Heart disease is the number one killer of women, and is often not diagnosed or misdiagnosed in women.

Joyce Dolbec made a motion to accept the Health Committee Report. Catherine Graziano seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Legislative & Legal Rights Committee: Please see attached report from Chair Cynthia Wilson. Additionally, this Committee has a new member. Heidi Alexander made contact with the Commission through the website. She is employed at the Providence office of the Center for Women and Enterprise, and is interested in policy work. Catherine Graziano made a motion to accept the Legislative & Legal Rights Committee Report. Kathy Nadeau seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Civil Rights Roundtable: Joyce Dolbec reported that the 6th Annual birthday celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., hosted by the RI Civil Rights Roundtable on January 12th was successful. Currently the Roundtable is reviewing Governor Carcieri's most recent Executive Orders on the Promotion of Equal Opportunity and the Prevention of Sexual Harassment in State Government. A short discussion ensued regarding diversity on the RICW. Chair Jane Anthony assured the Commissioners that the Commission is committed to diversity on the commission.

Kathy Nadeau made a motion to accept the Civil Rights Roundtable Report. Marilyn Coccozza Trillo seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Old Business

Chair Jane M. Anthony asked for assistance with finding a facilitator for the strategic planning meeting for the commission. Joyce Dolbec stated that on Tuesday February 8th, she would be speaking with former facilitator Barbara Inderlin. The scheduling of the Strategic Planning Workshop will occur once we have a confirmed facilitator for the workshop.

New Business

None.

Announcement

Joyce Dolbec gave out flyers inviting people to attend the Go Red for Women Heart Health Program on Monday, February 14th, 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM.

Catherine Graziano stated that AARP will be hosting a meeting on Social Security at the Westin on February 28th, from 10 AM-12 Noon. There will be valet parking and a free box lunch.

Mary Anne Miller stated that the Department of Health Primary Care Advisory Committee will be distributing on Medicare Part D – Prescription Drugs on Wednesday, February 16th, 7:30 AM, Department of Administration, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B.

Adjournment

Catherine Graziano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joyce Dolbec seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Next Meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2005, 5:30 PM, Department of Administration, 2nd Floor, Conference Room C.

Minutes approved on March 7, 2005. Signed by Kathy Nadeau, Secretary

**Full Commission Meeting
February 7, 2005, 5:30 PM
DOA, 2nd Floor, Conference Room C**

Director's Report

1. Maura Finnigan, Intern from this past summer delivered her final copy of the *Women In Politics* research she did for us. Please see attached.
2. Justine Miele, our current legislative intern began work on January 19th. She is a senior at Providence College. She came to us highly recommended by RI Family Court where she interned last semester, and by the Government Internship Office.
3. Jacqueline Cooke and Angela Rizzolo from the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau came to see me. They discussed Women's Bureau Programs, and would like us to assist them in any way we can with promoting the use of these programs. Please see handouts on these programs.
4. The second quarter report, for the period of October 1-December 31, 2004 was submitted on January 25, 2005. The Annual Financial Integrity and Accountability Report was submitted on January 30, 2005. Please see attached of both these reports.
5. I attended the first meeting this legislative session of the Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care on January 31, 2005. The group discussed legislation to possibly support. Senator Gibbs is currently working on language for a bill to provide tax credits for for-profit childcare providers who employ a daycare apprentice enrolled in a qualified program.
6. I attended the Office of Women's Health Advisory Committee Meeting on February 2, 2005.
7. See attached January monthly expenses.
8. There were no visits to the RICW website in January.