



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN

FULL COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, June 8, 2009, 5:00 PM
One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor
Conference Room B
Providence, RI 02908

Commissioners

- Linda H. Newton *Chair*
- Corinne Calise Russo, *1st Vice Chair*
- Carol Gibbons, Ph.D., *2nd Vice Chair*
- Joanne M. Hill, *Treasurer*
- Beverly Turner, *Secretary*
- Carrie Bridges, MPH
- Nancy Carriuolo, Ph.D.
- Representative Joanne Giannini
- Catherine Graziano, Ph.D.
- Lorraine Hynes
- Dawn L. Huntley
- Victoria Johnson
- Carol Malysz
- Helene Martin, RNC, CAGS, NCC
- Representative Eileen S. Naughton
- Sarah H. Rockett, M.A.
- Neena Savage, Esquire
- Marilyn Coccozza Trillo

MINUTES

Present: Carrie Bridges, Carol Gibbons, Catherine Graziano, Joanne Hill, Lorraine Hynes, Victoria Johnson, Helene Martin, Linda Newton, Sarah Rockett, Corinne Calise Russo, Marilyn Coccozza Trillo, Beverly Turner.

Absent, Excused: Nancy Carriuolo, Dawn Huntley, Neena Savage.

Absent, Unexcused: Rep. Joanne Giannini, Rep. Eileen Naughton.

Present, Non-Voting: Shanna Wells.

Call to Order

Chair Linda Newton called the meeting to order at 5:17 PM.

Consent Agenda

Catherine Graziano made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Joanne Hill seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair's Report

Chair Linda Newton reported on The RICW Project board meeting. The board decided not to focus on increasing their numbers until they have established their functions. Their first project will be to review Women of the Year (WOY) sponsorship materials, and to solicit sponsorships for the WOY Event.

Linda also reported on her discussion with Kim Butler at the RI Foundation regarding the Freda Goldman Award funds. With the downturn in the economy, the Goldman Funds were reduced by \$18,633, bringing the total fund to just over \$50,000. Kim told Linda that when economic downturns of this nature occur, the Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act (UMIFA) is triggered into effect. UMIFA is set up to protect endowments when there are large drops in the market. UMIFA restricts how much can be spent from endowed accounts. In the case of the Goldman Fund, this would mean that the RICW would only have \$1,200 to distribute through the Goldman Award process this year.

Federal legislation is currently pending that would override UMIFA. If passed, it would mean the RICW would have approximately \$3,100 to distribute through the Goldman Award process this year. Kim Butler advised the RICW to wait until the end of June to see if the legislation passes before determining the Goldman recipients for this year.

Staff

- Shanna Wells, M.Ed., *Director*

Linda advised Kim about the RICW Project and its pending 501C3 status, and discussed the possibility of the RI Foundation distributing Goldman Funds to the RICW Project, and having the Project take over the Goldman Award process. Linda will invite Kim Butler to a future meeting

of the RICW, to discuss the Goldman Fund in relation to the RICW Project.

Director's Report

See attached.

SADA Video

The Commissioners viewed the DVD created by RICW Intern, Jenny Mannix. While the Commissioner liked the premise, they felt the quality of the product was not strong enough to post on the RICW website. Discussion ensued regarding the development of a more professional DVD about SADA and other Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Prevention Programs currently available in the state, with the goal of distributing the DVD to school systems, and as an advocacy tool for increasing awareness of the need for IPV programming.

Committee Reports

Outreach/Women of the Year: Chair Marilyn Coccozza Trillo reported that the WOY Selection Committee met on May 18th and selected the following to be recipients of the 2009 Women of the Year Award:

Kathleen Hittner, MD - Health

- President and CEO of the Miriam Hospital and the Miriam Hospital Foundation
- Anesthesiologist

Toby Simon, M.Ed. – Advocacy

- Director, Women's Center, Bryant University
- Written texts on Peer Education regarding sexual violence, for both colleges and high schools

Sen. M. Teresa Paiva-Weed – Public Service

- First woman Senate President in RI
- Previously was the first woman Senate Majority Leader, and first Senate Judiciary Chair

Lynn Ewart-Paine, Ph.D. – Science & Technology

- International reputation for her expertise on transduction materials.
- Deputy Chief Technology Officer in the US Naval Undersea Warfare Division

Carol Shelton, PhD, RN - Education

- Was a Professor at RIC Dept. of Nursing until retired in 2008
- Specialized in Community Health, Health Policy, Women's Health Teaching

Beverly Najarian – Trailblazer

- First woman director of State Dept of Administration
- Currently Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor

The Event will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2009, 6:00 PM, at the Radisson Airport Hotel in Warwick. Save the Date cards were sent out the first week of June.

A suggestion was made to include Sports in the WOY Categories next year.

Health/Latina Health Forum: Co-Chair Carrie Bridges reported that a Latina Health Forum was held on May 13th at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Over 200 participants attend the event, which consisted of health screenings and an interactive presentation on maintaining health and wellness in tough times.

Education/Northeast Girls Collaborative (NEGC) Kick-Off: On May 16th, the NEGC kick-off was held at New England Institute of Technology. Twenty-seven attendees learned about the NEGC collaborative model and available \$1,000 mini-grants.

Term Expirations

The following commissioner terms expire on July 1, 2009:

Gubernatorial:

Nancy Carriuolo
Victoria Johnson
Sarah Rockett
Marilyn Coccozza Trillo

Departmental:

Corinne Calise Russo (DEA/HHS)
Carrie Bridges (DOH)

We still await the following appointments:

Gubernatorial:

Lela Morgan (2007)
Denise Barge (2008)
Jane Anthony (2011)
Loida Bonney (2011)
Carol Malysz (2011)

Legislative:

Senate – 2
House – 1

Departmental:

Camille Vollaro (2008 DLT)

Discussion ensued over the lack of response from DLT. It was determined that other non-represented departments would be included in the election process to determine if another department should be asked for representation.

Linda stated she would contact the governor's office regarding appointments.

Executive Session

The Commissioners discussed Director Shanna Wells' annual evaluation.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:00 PM.

Next Meeting: August 17, 2009, 5:00 PM, One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B, Providence.

Minutes approved on September 14, 2009.

Beverly Turner, Secretary



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Website: There were 474 hits on the website in May.

Women's Policy Institute at the Women's Fund: I was accepted as a fellow in the Women's Policy Institute for the 2009—2010 class. The Institute begins sometime in June.

Northeast Girls Collaborative (NEGC): The Northeast Girls Collaborative focuses on forming collaborations in the state that encourage girls to become involved in STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Technology. RICW, the Tech Collective and New England Institute of Technology are the planning committee for the NEGC in Rhode Island. Our kick-off event will be held on Saturday, May 16th, from 10-1 at New England Tech. Twenty-seven people attended the event. See attached evaluation results.

Human Trafficking: I have been spending a great deal of time helping craft the Human Trafficking legislation. I gave verbal and written testimony in the House Judiciary Committee, and have met with members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Senate Judiciary Committee will hopefully hear the bill this Thursday, June 11th.

Records Retention: I completed the two year long records retention project. Fourteen boxes were transferred to the permanent archives at the Secretary of State's Office. All three office cubicles were cleaned and re-arranged to maximize space, and for ease of work. Three old PC's were sent to salvage, as they were all over ten years old. Next fiscal year, if finances allow, I would like to upgrade the RICW laptop to include a network card and virus software, so the laptop could be utilized as a PC by a student intern.