



Human Resources Division

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 427 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-6500 • FAX 954-357-7889

Meeting Record

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Advisory Board Meeting	Date: July 12, 2023 Call to Order: 6:01 PM
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Attendees

Elaine Blattner	Julie Carson	Caroline Collette	Cathleen Dean
Toby Feuer	Nancy Fry	Linda Thompson Gonzalez	Gail Grahn
Jeanne Kacprzak	Angine Moss	Christiane Paulhus	Jasmen Rogers
Udaya Thomas	Chad Zurko (Board Coord.)	Kristen McIntosh (CAO)	

Members Absent

Susan Buzzi	Karlene Maxwell-Williams		
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Key Decisions

1.

Action Items

	Description	Resource	Status
1.			
2.			
3.			

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL (2 minutes)

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm, however there were technical difficulties with the media system in Room 430 for approximately 15 minutes while new member Ms. Williams introduced herself. At this point roll call was taken and quorum established. Mr. Zurko also noted that Emma Collum was no longer on the Board due to not being reappointed by her new Commissioner.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by Dr. Thomas, second by Ms. Feuer; unanimously carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes from June 14 as presented was made by Ms. Kacprzak, second by Dr. Thomas; unanimously carried.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT (4 Minutes)

Chair Rogers asked Dr. Thomas to lead the room in a minute of mindfulness meditation due to the “bumpy start” of the meeting.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS (66 Minutes)

CEDAW

Chair Carson did not have anything to report.

Communications

Chair Kacprzak noted they did not have a committee meeting this month; however, they had previously discussed having an event at a County Library along with sending letters to the Commissioners and other entities who they would like to partner with. Mr. Zurko noted he had e-mailed everyone the 2019 Annual Report with the cover letter as an example of CSW “letterhead.” He also attempted to contact our Boards Liaison Naomie for guidance. She had replied a few days ago and said she would need to check with her boss Marty about this, however as a rule of thumb she invited the board to send any correspondence through her office. Ms. Kacprzak also noted that the 2023 CEDAW Report is on the County Auditor’s website, so the idea is to get this out to other women’s groups and government representatives. She proposed that a cover letter be drafted and sent out to board for their input. Also there should be a tracking system in place as to whom the letter is sent to avoid duplication of efforts. Members were also encouraged to send letters individually with the report link to their circles.

Women’s Issues

Mr. Zurko noted that this committee still needs a Chair. Former Chair Ms. Rogers noted there was previous discussion about “folding” this into another committee like CEDAW. This was unanimously approved. There was further discussion about updating the roster, specifically the “purpose” to reflect a new, combined committee, along with other possible related events, advocacy, etc. At this point it was 7:00 and several members had indicated they would need to leave, so Mr. Zurko proposed to move ahead in the agenda to the speakers who were present.

Women: VOTE!

Resuming with the reports, Chair Paulhus noted they had not yet met as a committee, but she had created a Doodle in an attempt to organize a time for this. She requested Mr. Zurko e-mail it to the rest of the board in case anyone else was interested in joining. She also reached out to the League of Women Voters and is planning to meet with them to see how their youth registration initiatives can align. She should have more to report at the next meeting. Another possible topic to join forces on is their Equal Rights Amendment. Ms. Rogers suggested sending the LWV the CEDAW report as well.

Mindfulness

Chair Thomas reported that she and Ms. Feuer had met (on Zoom) and edited the draft of the Commissioners’ letter according to everyone’s comments and suggestions and this was e-mailed to everyone. Mr. Zurko noted that this was one of the items he had forwarded to Naomie for review and advice on the best way to present to them. Ms. Kacprzak suggested we try to get a definitive answer within the next week as additional follow-up with the Commissioners may be needed. Dr. Thomas noted that the City of Hollywood was specifically mentioned in their letter because they had a gun buyback on June 24. Ms. Dean questioned how the other committees could incorporate/include budget requests with this to fund events like the Women’s History Month reception at the Victory Black Box Theater: Again, it was

stressed that time was of the essence since the County will have its budget hearings soon. Ms. Rogers added she felt it was best to have a direct ask in the letter, i.e. "We want to meet with you, tell us what times work best." Dr. Thomas invited Ms. Rogers to add these items herself and sign the letter as Chair so it may have more impact. Ms. Kacprzak brought up the proposed displays for library events again as the one for Women's History Month cost around \$300 per Mr. Zurko. There was a question of getting information about the Miami Dade CSW's budget as a reference point- Ms. Rogers noted they have a full-time paid Executive Director who manages their meetings as well as community engagement. They also recently had a board retreat in Key Largo. She proposed setting a deadline of sending out an updated draft by this Friday, with board members submitting comments/revisions by close of business the following Monday. Ms. Blattner inquired whether it was possible to meet with a department head and/or Budget Director. Mr. Zurko felt this would not do any good and again suggested that individuals reach out to their Commissioners directly. Ms. Feuer reported that many years ago the CSW did receive a small amount of money, however it was decided that one Advisory Board could not receive funding while the others didn't, so now none of them are funded. Therefore, she suggested that since the letter was going to Sen. Rich, we should focus on getting her as an advocate within the Commission. The idea of speaking at a Commission meeting in August was also brought up again. Further to this, Ms. Thompson Gonzalez suggested everyone contact their appointing Commissioners to advise that the CSW will be speaking at the meeting and would appreciate their support. This way they are not blindsided. Ms. Rogers asked Ms. Carson if she could share about her experience with these situations as a former city official- she said they have the same issue in Wilton Manors. However, she encouraged keeping the letter brief and to the point and said she would e-mail Ms. Rogers with further suggestions.

6. GUEST SPEAKERS (30 Minutes)

Ms. Knellee Bislam, CEO and Founder of Aham Education presented a brief slide presentation on her organization and its mission and activities regarding possibly partnering with the CSW. She then took questions/comments from the board.

Due to time constraints, Ms. Stella Tokar requested a few minutes to introduce the topic and why she was here in hopes of scheduling a future date for her to present more details. She explained she was a Neuro Encoder and spoke about this as it relates to brain health. She also spoke about her work as board member of the Federal Department of Veteran's Affairs (FDVA) and their program "Mission United" in conjunction with the United Way. Finally, she spoke about top issues for women Veterans including self-isolation and homelessness which are outlined in the "ALICE" report (she said she would send this for distribution).

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Due to time constraints, it was agreed to table all further agenda items until the next meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Feuer, second by Ms. Carson; unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

The next scheduled Board meeting will convene:

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 6 PM

If a Board member or other party would like more detailed information about the contents of these summarized minutes, an audio/video recording of the meeting is available by contacting the Human Rights Section, 954-357-7800.