



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Broward County Commission on the Status of
Women

The Broward County Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) advisory board is a non-partisan body with a focus on raising awareness and celebrating the contributions and successes of all residents of Broward County. It provides a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues that affect women, girls, and their families in our county.

Who We Are

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by [ECOSOC resolution 11\(II\) of 21 June 1946](#).

The Broward County Commission on the Status of Women (CSW or Board) advisory board is a non-partisan body with a focus on raising awareness and celebrating the contributions and successes of all residents of Broward County. It especially provides a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues that affect women, girls and their families in our county.

What We Do

CSW assesses County institutions, facilities, services and programs focusing on women or affecting women and their families and recommends plans and programs to address these concerns. The Board:

- Identifies and helps resolve economic, health, social and other issues concerning women's lives through education and advocacy.
- Celebrates the achievements of women in Broward County by recognizing leaders including during Women's History Month annually in March.
- Holds annual events to bring organizations together and educates the public about the needs facing Broward County women. Through forums, round table discussions and other venue events, CSW provides invaluable feedback to the Broward County Commission consist with its mission.



Governmental Center, 115 S.
Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

Board Members

- Jeanne Kacprzak – CHAIR*
- Susan Buzzi – 1st chair *
- Lauren Alperstein – 2nd chair*
- Doreen Albert
- Elaine Blattner*
- Julie Carson *
- Toby Feuer *
- Naima Khan-Ghany *
- Gail Grahn *
- Alex Heathcock
- Alexandra Hershorn*
- Juliet Hue *
- Nancy Metayer
- Sherry Rini *
- Jasmen Rogers
- Melissa Shiff

* members as of 12/31/2021

Board Coordinator – Chad Zurko

Committees

- CEDAW
- Communications
- Women’s Issues
- Women’s VOTE

Social Media Handles

- Instagram – BrowardWomen
- Twitter - @BrowardWomen
- Facebook -
[https://www.facebook.com/
BCStatusofWomen](https://www.facebook.com/BCStatusofWomen)

Websites

- <https://www.broward.org/StatusofWomen/Pages/default.aspx>

CHAIR’s REPORT

RE-ESTABLISHING OUR PURPOSE

2021 was a year of refocus. The CSW worked at re-establishing, re-connecting and re-emerging from the constraints of living and working in an environment hampered by the COVID-19 epidemic and the corresponding impact of residents of Broward County and particularly on Women and their families. COVID-19 has also increased the pressure on working mothers and resulted in an increase in the unemployment of women as well as an increase in the lack of childcare, further negatively impacting the lives of women in our County.

CSW is together in our purpose to address the issues impacting women in Broward County with a renewed emphasis and commitment to our causes.

I want to thank Commissioner Rich for her support and for recognizing the Broward CSW at the March commission meeting during presentation of the county audit report.

The board and work of the Broward CSW is diverse and focuses on the highlights of women’s issues. We continue to grow and develop insights into these issues. I’d also like to thank the women who gave us input and the commissioners who followed-through. Read the details in the report below.

And a big thank you to our Board Coordinator – Chad Zurko for keeping the board on track.

Jeanne Kacprzak

Chair, Broward Commission on the Status of Women, 2021

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

WOMEN'S ISSUES – Chair Jasmen Rogers

The Broward CSW follows legislation at all levels of government that impact women. The board discussed the following legislation coming up in 2021 –

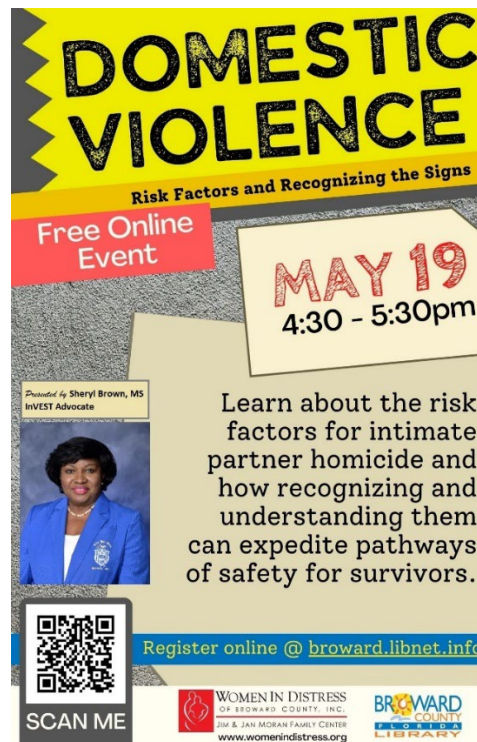
- Senate Bill 854 which seeks to lower the minimum wage
- SB 410 which would require parental consent for students to receive sexual education
- HB 1 which would effectively outlaw protests and make actions such as blocking roadways and damaging shrubbery felonies
- a proposed ban on 20-week abortions (744)
- and Learning with Dignity (SB 242, HB 75) which would provide free feminine hygiene products for students while at school

The board may recommend legislation needing support or opposition to the Broward County delegation as a result of these discussions.

The Broward CSW maintains a women's resource list the county website. The CSW reviewed and made updates to the list to relay the latest resources.

The CSW encourages guests to share their experiences with the board.

Sheryl Brown, InVEST Advocate with Women In Distress, participated in one meeting and gave excellent insight into Women in Distress in Broward County. Ms. Brown stated that she and the detective she works with review the 900-1000 police reports filed with Broward County Agencies each month to look for incidents that could lead to homicide- approximately 60 fall into that category. For the question of whether those statistics were measured among different races and ethnicities, Ms. Brown indicated that WID only logs them based on gender, but reported that half of homicide victims are African American, since they may be more hesitant to call the Police on their intimate partners. It was also noted that men and boys experience domestic violence, however this is about 2% of victims.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Risk Factors and Recognizing the Signs

Free Online Event

MAY 19
4:30 - 5:30pm

Presented by Sheryl Brown, MS
InVEST Advocate

Learn about the risk factors for intimate partner homicide and how recognizing and understanding them can expedite pathways of safety for survivors.

Register online @ broward.libnet.info

SCAN ME

WOMEN IN DISTRESS
OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC.
JIM & JAN MORAN FAMILY CENTER
www.womenindistress.org

BROWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY



WOMEN'S VOTE- Chair Melissa Shiff

The committee held a meeting with the League of Women Voters to discuss how the CSW can help get more women to vote.

The “Rightfully Hers” display (Women’s Suffrage) continued to be displayed at libraries around the county. At this time, it has found a permanent home in the Deerfield Beach Library.



COMMISSION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) – Chair Gail Grahn

On November 5, 2019, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the enactment of Ordinance 2019-35, creating Article V, Sections 16 ½ -81 and 16 ½ 82, of the Broward County Code of Ordinances, adopting the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW provides an international standard for protecting and promoting women's human rights and is frequently referred to as the "Bill of Rights" for women.

The Status of Women in Broward County Report 2021 was presented to the Broward Commission by Commissioner Nan Rich at the March 9th, 2021 meeting. The Broward CSW formed a committee to analyze and bring to light the major issues facing Broward women as identified in the report.

Commissioner Rich tasked the Broward CSW with finding solutions and bringing those to the Broward Commission. The CEDAW committee of the Broward CSW will be looking at local city and crime data to further refine its' analysis. As well as expanding the scope to more diverse populations.

TOPICS of FOCUS

- Housing Insecurity
- Access to affordable healthcare
- Maternal health (particularly minorities)
- Domestic violence
- Human/sex trafficking
- Mental illness
- Sedentariness in women
- Family leave for miscarriage
- Availability of personal hygiene products.

Dr. Ilcheva, who compiled our CEDAW report, along with Laura Rogers from the County Auditor's Office joined one of the board meetings to explain the process of collecting data. They took input from the board for items to be included in the next report. Each report spans 2 years, with the next report expected in 2023. A copy of the report can be requested through the board coordinator – Chad Zurko at czurko@broward.org.



CSW SOCIAL MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS – Chair Jeanne Kacprzak

The Broward CSW uses social media to encourage participation in events affecting women and to bring light to issues in the community. The CSW will also share posts from the Florida Commission on the Status of Women (FCSW).

Social Media Handles

- Instagram – BrowardWomen
- Twitter - @BrowardWomen
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BCStatusofWomen>

Websites

- <https://www.broward.org/StatusofWomen/Pages/default.aspx>

April – Broward Denim Day



The Nancy J. Cotterman Center encourages residents to wear denim or denim ribbons on Tuesday, April 20, Denim Day in Broward County. "By wearing denim, residents help increase awareness of sexual violence and child abuse and ultimately foster greater understanding and prevention," said Ana María Ferrer, Human Services Administrator for Nancy J. Cotterman Center. "As a community, we should support sexual assault and child abuse survivors and understand that it's never their fault. NJCC unconditionally supports survivors and helps them heal." Last year, the Crisis Unit provided more than 7,500 episodes of service.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is celebrated each year in March. CSW board members nominate Broward county women who are recognized at a commission meeting designated by one of the commissioners, presenting each with a proclamation. CSW has also set a precedent for Women's History Month Proclamations in multiple cities in Broward, who now do these proclamations each March.

The 2021 theme for Women's History Month was – "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced" and each nominee along with a biography is displayed in the lobby of the Government Center,

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN // BROWARD.ORG/STATUSOFWOMEN

Marlene Brana

Marlene has been a resident of Florida for many years. Originally from Columbia, Marlene encourages her friends, neighbors, and others in the Hispanic community to voice their support for our freedom by voting. Marlene is passionate about the freedom the county enjoys and now makes an opportunity to speak to people about the process of voting officials in the county. Marlene has participated multiple times with Freedom voter registration drives at churches across South Florida and is a great help to the Hispanic community to help answer questions on the process.

Susan Lycett Davis (Dr. Sue)

An Organizational Leadership Consultant, Professor Emerita, author and performer, Dr. Sue is an internationally sought after keynote and motivational speaker. She has training as a therapist, community service experience, and has hosted facilitated writing and professional development workshops. Dr. Sue wishes to help individuals and groups understand the importance of being their best and contributing to the welfare of their country, as well as educating others about the voting process and encouraging voter registration. Her goal is to help others find their purpose, feel their passion, and make service their mission. A realist, she promotes the pragmatic principles of humility, generosity, and preparedness (H3).

Corryn Grace Freeman

Corryn (she/her) is a political strategist and campaign consultant specializing in issue-based and electoral campaigns, using data-driven, grassroots organizing tactics. She has been an organizing director for Planned Parenthood of South, East, and North Florida, an eastern regional organizing director of South Carolina Hillary for America. She developed an international field campaign strategy for the 2016 US House of Representatives for Tink and Tobago, and was a field organizer with Obama for America. In the most recent election cycle, as the State Director for Florida for Al, Corryn was able to develop statewide voter education, protection, empowerment, and turnout efforts across the state.

Emma Collum

Emma is an attorney, activist, co-founder of the National Women's March on Washington, and founder and President of Women's March Florida. She also currently serves as the Chair of Fulu's List for Florida as well as the List Director for Broward County. Emma began her legal career as an advocate for women's rights, domestic violence, cancer workers, and environmental protections. As General Counsel for a South Florida engineering company, she is passionate about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematical education), especially encouraging women and girls to grow in those fields. She is a champion of women's involvement in politics, including encouraging them to run for office, engaging them to vote through her roles with Fulu's List.

Karen Patton Fortman

At 18 months old, Karen's daughter was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. She became an advocate not just for her, but others with disabilities. She served as Executive Director of a nonprofit disability advocacy organization and was appointed to the Broward County Advisory Board for individuals with Disabilities. Seeking further change in policies and laws, Karen worked on local politics and was a founding member of the State Democratic Club in 2013. She was elected as their President in 2020 and the following year, she founded members of the Broward County President Council of Democratic Clubs and Clubs and is currently serving on the 2022 Democratic Executive Committee Management and Platform Committee. She continues to have a passion "not just for the end" in Broward, as well as encouraging others to get involved in the process.

Jennifer Gottlieb

Ms. Gottlieb is a powerhouse in the political arena, and passionate about our democracy and empowering women. Her career began as a teacher, followed by being elected to serve on the Broward County School Board from 2008 to 2011. During her time on the Board, one of her proudest accomplishments was the establishment of Electorate Mentorship Village School, one of the best public schools in Florida. She continues to be inspired by being involved in numerous civic groups, clubs, and organizations dedicated to helping "Cut the Vote" and empowering women and youth. Though she stays busy working to benefit the public good, her heart is devoted to family, her "ride and joy."

Maryann Connors

Maryann is Grassroots Engagement Director for Americans for Prosperity, a conservative grassroots organization that promotes free market policies. "We will work with anyone to do right and not to do wrong." She works to encourage people to get out to vote and become active in their communities. She has knocked on thousands of doors to "cut our vote" both in Florida and in Georgia, and recently worked on restoring the right for Florida voters to vote. Maryann believes every citizen has a responsibility and is a strong example of women making a difference!

Mary Anne Gray

From South Florida to the halls of Legislature in Tallahassee, she is a tireless advocate for women through political advancement, as an environmental activist, sponsor for women in the military industry and our amazing animal services. Executive Director of Broward Navy City's "Real World" mentorship program, she has worked hard as an engaged, dedicated, and enthusiastic member of all of our communities. She has family all over the state. The South Florida community mourned her sudden passing last July. Our community is less without her, but my - how brightly her star shines.

Scan this QR code
Broward.org/StatusofWomen
to read their biographies online

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN // BROWARD.ORG/STATUSOFWOMEN

Denise Horland

Currently the Vice President, Denise Horland, dedicated tirelessly to her community both locally and on for over 20 years. She has held leadership positions on many boards, volunteered with political campaigns, registered voters, and is a key contributor to the National Broward County Youth Cabinet. Denise proudly supports and mentors other women through her work on the Broward County List of Broward County and the District Official Advisory Board for the Women's Foundation of Florida. When not serving the public, you can find her curled up with a good book or indulging her husband and kids with her culinary skills.

Mary Molina-Macfie

Mary was elected to the Weston City Commission in November 2018. A long-time community volunteer, she was named "her from New York" in 1991, she has championed many causes. Inspired by her own children's Broward and Weston, she has since advocated in local decision and moved for Broward public schools and helped the City of Weston create the annual voter code in the State. Ms. Molina Macfie founded the first Women's Association in Weston and has served on many boards including Broward County Consumer Affairs, the Broward Coalition of Congregations Women's Associations, the Community Association Initiative, the Florida Legislative Action Committee, and the Weston WCA. Mary is also passionate about voter registration and has volunteered at numerous events. She has been elected across the Weston Town Center, talking to residents, and offering to register them using her phone!

Annette Odiz

Annette Odiz was born in Israel and raised in Florida since the age of 7. She currently works as a local Hebrew Academy and makes sure every Jewish member is a registered voter, along with the parents of current and former students. Annette talks to the younger Jewish generation about the importance of registering to vote and that every single vote counts. Then, on Election Day she spends her day being the lobby and checking to the polls. Annette is committed to the ideals of the Republican Party and excited to register over 500 people this election day.

Noemie Labaty

Noemie is a social activist, a blogger on Global Affairs from Florida International University where she also graduated with a BA in International Relations and Political Science. In addition, she holds a certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Noemie is a strong advocate for women's empowerment and education, and is the representative of her fellow students with the Hellenic Community. And through her work on the Broward County 2020 campaign, around women and families across the county, she has representation with their vote for the next ten years.

Kerry Ann Parsons

Kerry Ann and her family immigrated from Jamaica in 1998. After her disappointment with the election results in 2016, she decided to do what she could to change them. She joined the Broward Democratic Executive Committee as an At-Large Member and later a Precinct Captain and Area Leader. She was also Director of both the Dolphin Democrats and State and Florida (SDFF) Precinct Captain. Currently, Kerry Ann is a member of the Broward Young Democrats and Democratic clubs for Daley Ales & Cigars, Barchi North Broward, and Greater Pompano Beach. She is also a Director of the Voter Participation Project, which focuses on a No-Poll Formula for problem solving, critical listening and critical thinking. She continues to advocate for voter engagement by leading workshops and leading registration drives throughout the County.

Lindsay Pollard

Lindsay is very involved in the voting and elections process. She works as a Finance Consultant with Diverse Strategy Group (DSG) where clients have included many candidates for House, Senate, and other offices throughout South Florida. In 2020, she also worked as treasurer with Noemie's successful campaign for Coral Springs Commissioner. She previously worked as treasurer and regional Finance Director for both Andrew Gillum and Charlie Crist's gubernatorial bids, and for Broward County Commissioner Dale Handberg's election campaign and Sandra Flaik's run for Mayor of Coral. She had also served as the Finance Director for Andy Hines and Annette Laddico's Congressional campaign.

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BROWARD WOMEN AT THE COMMISSION

April 11, 2021

Black Maternal Health Week takes place every year from April 11 –17 and was officially recognized by the White House on April 13th, 2021. The month of April is recognized in the United States as National Minority Health Month – a month-long initiative to advance health equity across the country on behalf of all racial and ethnic minorities. Additionally, we are joining dozens of global organizations who are fighting to end maternal mortality globally in advocating that the United Nations recognize April 11th as the International Day for Maternal Health and Rights.

April 27, 2021

Equal Pay Day Proclamation

On April 6th, Commissioner Nan Rich presented the Proclamation of Equal Pay Day to the Commission with Joanne Goodwin being the recipient representing Broward Women. The date that women’s pay equals men’s should be December 31st. The actual date differs for women of color, mom’s, Asian and Hispanic women. The Proclamation presented by Commissioner Rich shows that the Broward County Commission recognizes this gap.

Women’s Issues Chair Rogers addressed the Broward County Commission, encouraging the commission to support a resolution from Broward County, which affirms folks’ rights to have an abortion and denounces “Crisis Pregnancy Centers” which disseminate religion-based misinformation to folks who go to them thinking they will receive abortion services. She believed we are the first County in Florida to do this, although other Cities have passed similar resolutions. A majority of the Commissioners spoke in support of this, citing the constitutionality of folks to make the best decisions for their personal health. She is also a member of a coalition that is planning a “Fight for Reproductive Freedom” event in Washington on January 12 to commemorate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. She has been working with other issues as well, which she will update in the Legislative Tracker. There was further discussion of the how polarizing the issue is and the possible effects of making such a “bold statement” as the resolution does.



CONCLUSION

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE – SECOND WEDNESDAY

- JANUARY 27
- FEBRUARY 10
- APRIL 14
- JUNE 9
- SEPTEMBER 9
- OCTOBER 13
- NOVEMBER 10
- DECEMBER 8

JOIN US

You can get involved with CSW by serving on the advisory board. Broward County Commissioners appoint two representatives, and one must reside within the Commissioner’s district. You can also attend CSW Board meeting and events. Board meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month as determined during the annual planning meeting in January. See our website for latest information regarding meeting dates and locations - <https://www.broward.org/StatusofWomen/pages/default.aspx>

SUMMARY and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Broward CSW is comprised of a diverse set of women who bring a vast amount of experience from their professional and personal lives. The CSW has worked to partner with the community and the Broward County Commission.

We look forward to the new year of 2022 and coming out of COVID.

The Broward CSW Acknowledges the Broward County Commission for listening to the concerns of women in Broward County and for working tirelessly for the community. We would also like to thank the Board Coordinator, Chad Zurko for coordinating meetings and important county trainings. We would also like to thank the Ethics trainers and legal staff who provide direction to the board.

