



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

MINUTES
Iowa Commission on the Status of Women
April 16, 2014
First Floor Conference room, Oran Pape/Public safety building

Commissioners present for all of the meeting

Joan Axel
Tom Carnahan
Beth Coonan
Jill Olsen
Phyllis Peters

Commissioner Absent: David Gudenkauf

DHR/ICSW staff

San Wong
Heidi Smith
Sanjita Pradhan

Members of the Public- Present for all or part of the meeting

Michelle Durand-Adams, Linda Bisgaard, Karen Person attended briefly by phone, Mary Ellen Miller.

Call to order

Chair Phyllis Peters called the meeting to order at 9:44 am

Introductions of Guests:

Chair Peters asked the public members attending the meeting to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda:

Peters called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Vote: 5 ayes, none opposed

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Peters called for an approval of the February 6 meeting minutes. Commissioner Tom made a motion to approve the agenda and Beth seconded. No discussion.
Ayes 5.

DHR Director San Wong's Report:

San reported that the budget has not be set yet. The department has submitted the budget request to the Governor's office with a small increase. That increase has been removed by the appropriation committee.

San mentioned that the impact of that is unknown at this time. The increase was needed in order to preserve current staffing. However with the turnover of one staff person the department may be ok.

Phyllis asked how the commission can help in advocating for appropriate resources from Legislature.

San responded to Phyllis's question about the reason for the shrinking budget in the CAS Division. San shared that the legislators had not supported the Governor's recommendations for the CAS Division. As a result, there is a reduction in funds to keep the division at status quo. San shared that the department is doing ok at this time but making connections as individuals and communities with the legislators related to the budget cut might during the summer and next session will be helpful.

Phyllis brought up the budget analyst that talked to the commission (she thinks it was 2011) and how the legislative process needed to integrate. They also stated the need to use advocacy groups (such as the commission) to further the department. Beth wondered if Beth wondered if the commission should we reach out to Representative Mathes and Senator Hogg. San stated that the decision has been made at the legislative level with the leadership and it would not do any good.

Joan wondered about the value of giving the legislator some back data such as what was left after redesign talking points and the reduction from 5 staff to 3 staff to 1 staff and the FTE impact on the ability to deal with priorities. San stated that the CAS Division works together and each Office uses the commission as an asset. It is part of a 3 legged stool: Office, Commission, and Community. Jill stated that the staff position has changed from a place to work to a pass-through career position. The turnover in board/commission makes it difficult for consistency. San stated that new board and commissioners add new perspective but it is also a huge turnover and the knowledge of those that have served is now half gone. Jill stated that the turnover on the board is tough because they were just building camaraderie and laughing together but now it is gone. San stated that re-educating is not unique to DHR but it impacts the department because of the structure. Joan stated she is looking forward to the future functions of dept. and she is willing to help its vitality.

Jill stated that the difference between philanthropy vs. investment within the commission. It is important as an investment in lowans to empower them to mobilize. Tom stated that talking to legislators Tom explained that the budget was approved as status quo by the legislators but it is not really a status quo budget due to increases in salaries and benefits.

Heidi updated the commission on the Office on the Status of Women. Kristen is currently gone due to having a baby. Working on plan together afternoon strategic plan. San mentioned that the executive team got together for a strategic planning for the office and identify cross cutting issues and direct resources efficiently. She explained that the department's three main goals are

- 1) Support the three branches of the government.
- 2) Creating access and building capacities of state and other agencies
- 3) Move individuals from where they are to the next level.

San added that the commission can complement the goal of the department by being more deliberate in helping the department move towards the goal.

Phyllis mentioned that it was good to know so the commission considers this while planning and staff time allocation.

Joni added that it would be really good to be able to follow up with the girls who attend the Capitol Girls event to find what they end up doing in life and find the real impact of the program.

Office report - Sanjita

Sanjita reported that Kristen has been logging her time spent on different projects and she spent about 10% of her time on the Capitol Girls project. 29 girls had registered but only 16 participated due to inclement weather. Phyllis mentioned that it was good to know so the commission considers this while planning and staff time allocation. Joni added that it would be really good to be able to follow up with the girls who attend the Capitol Girls event to find what they end up doing in life and find the real impact of the program.

Linda Bisgaard reported that this is a very important project for Girls Scouts. Girls Scouts invest in the cost and pay for all the expenses. Their plan is to continue the program regardless of participation from other parties. However, it has been very helpful to have support from the Office on the Status of Women. Sanjita added that from the offices' perspective, that the staff has taken time to evaluate the project and feels like it is an important investment in young girls to help them get exposure and get them interested in politics. The office considers Capital Girls as one of the project that helps in creating pipeline for creating female leaders. The value that young girls get by interacting with female leaders is big considering the time that we put in therefore the office would like to continue supporting the program.

Director Wong added that the Commission can provide guidance and suggestions but they do not have the authority to make decisions on Office work and projects.

Sanjita also reported that the Write Women Back into History Essay contest went well. There were a total of 93 Essays and seven winners and their families had the opportunity to visit the capitol for the Award Ceremony attended by both the Governor and the Lt. Governor. All commissioners commended that the number of essays received were high and good.

DHR Board report- Jill Olsen

Jill Olsen reported that the DHR open house that was attended by about 100 people was very effective. In the last meeting the board learned/heard about human trafficking from experts but the board is unsure at this time if they are able to take this up as a priority. She mentioned that the board has been operating off of the Strategic Planning document that was developed a year ago.

Friends of ICSW Report: Linda/Michelle

Michelle Durand Adams reported that the Friends board members are small but mighty and are working on the following projects.

1. Women you know fall event to be hosted by Linda Schriber in Eastern Iowa on June 24 and 25 and 2013 Hall of Fame honoree Dr. Mary Chapman in October 20 or 21.
2. Started preliminary work on the Hall of fame luncheon at the Embassy Suites, refining sponsor list, recruiting volunteers etc.
3. Friends board paid for the renewal of NACW membership. NACW conference is in July in Florida. Rachell Hunt Russian from the Friends board will be attending and the Friends Board is offering one staff member to participate. Historically the office has paid for the membership. This year there were some concerns on the expense and the office was not able to pay for the membership. Michelle explained that it is very valuable to be a part of the national organization; it is a great learning opportunity on what other states are doing and share what Iowa is doing.
4. Friends board members are getting ready to participate in the IWLC conference on April 23rd.
5. Some friends board members are also participating in the IWLP Project, which is taking the top 10 issues identified by the 'She Matters' report and finding partners and ways to work deeper on those issues. Phyllis has been a part of the meetings and is taking up the Gender Balance Project since it is a priority topic for the Friends board.
6. Michelle reported that the a smaller group including of Phyllis, Karla, herself and Sanjita met for two hours over the weekend to discuss the Gender balance project in detail and find some action steps.

Michelle thanked Jill & Joni for their service to the commission.

Commission appointments and re-appointments

Chair Peters shared that three new commissioners, whose term begins on May 1, have been appointed to the ICSW commission.

She took the opportunity to thank Jill and Joni for their service to the commission.

She mentioned that because of Jill's departure from the DHR board the commission needed to nominate another commissioner to the DHR board.

She explained that the DHR board meets four times a year and therefore it will mean for the candidate to attend four more meetings in addition to the four ICSW meetings at the least. There was immediate interest from Tom Carnahan and Beth Coonan for the position. After some negotiation and discussion the commission unanimously voted Beth Coonan to be appointed to the DHR board.

Joni moved a motion to appoint Beth Coonan to DHR board.

Tom: Seconded the motion.

Aye: 5, Nay: 0 Motion carried.

Phyllis mentioned that she will be working on setting up the Hall of Fame selection committee in the next few days.

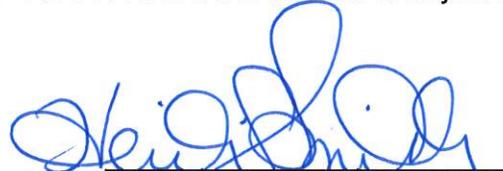
Phyllis reminded that the next commission meeting date is on June 11 from 9:30am – 12:30 pm.

Phyllis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beth seconded the motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted:



Phyllis Peters, Chair



Heidi Smith, Deputy Director