



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

MINUTES
Iowa Commission on the Status of Women
December 22, 2014
Lucas State Office Building
321 E. 12th St., Des Moines, IA 50309

Commissioners present

Phyllis Peters, chair
Tom Carnahan
Beth Coonan
David Gudenkauf
Rachelle Hunt Russian
Aaron Sewell

DHR/ICSW staff

Kristen Corey, Program Planner, Office on the Status of Women

Members of the public - present for all or part of the conference call

Kay Oskvig from Fairfield, Iowa

Call to order

Call to order by chair Phyllis Peters at 12:02 p.m.

Introductions of commissioners, staff and guests

Kay Oskvig announced her presence on the phone from Fairfield, Iowa.

Discussion and approval of 2015 ICSW Issues and Policy Priorities document

Corey mentioned a comment she received from a member of the public that the wording of priority #1 ("Proactive protection and oversight for Iowa women and girls") sounds too paternalistic. Corey stated that the member of the public suggested the following wording, "Safety and equal access to justice systems protections" instead. Corey added that the commission could possibly just replace "proactive protection and oversight" with "safety." Corey stated this was the only comment she received from the public prior to today's conference call.

Sewell stated that he likes the way priority #1 is currently worded.

Carnahan added that the intent of priority #1 was not just limited to justice systems protection and didn't want it to sound like that in the document.

Coonan stated that she worries about using the general term "safety" because providing safety for Iowa women and girls is beyond the commission's capability.

Gudenkauf added that he thinks "safety" is a safe word. He stated that he thought the commission wanted to put more focus into what the commission's goals are in this document, which is protection and oversight.

Hunt Russian stated that she agrees with the current wording; and agrees that using "safety" is too general. Hunt Russian thinks the document is clear and concise and likes the way it is worded.

Coonan stated that she thinks this document is fantastic and applauds those who worked on it. Coonan added that the document enumerates what she would like the commission to focus on.

Gudenkauf added that he agrees with commissioner Coonan and wants to reinforce the kudos on the great work done on the document.

Motion to approve the ICSW 2015 Issues and Policy Priorities document as written:

Chair Peters requested a motion to approve the ICSW 2015 Issues and Policy Priorities document as written.

Commissioner Gudenkauf made the motion to approve the document as written.
Carnahan seconded the motion.

Aye: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

Further discussion

Peters asked how the commission will effectively stay on top of key issues now that the commission has approved its 2015 issues and policy priorities.

Carnahan asked if the document limits the commission to just focusing on legislation and to just focusing on the issues laid out in the document. Carnahan asked if the commission could use this in reference to other issues as well. One of his concerns is related to what is going on at the University of Iowa right now related to the treatment of women's coaching staff, especially with regard to the firing of Tracey Griesbaum.

Peters stated that as a commission one of the commission's duties is to be advocates; to raise our voices and to talk to appropriate officials and determine where it's

appropriate to get involved. Peters added she sees this document as something that is proactive instead of reactive.

Gudenkauf asked Carnahan to clarify what he was asking.

Carnahan clarified that based on what he has followed with the situation at the University of Iowa, there seems to be a double-standard in terms of treatment of the coaching staff. From what he has read and heard, he doesn't think it is entirely fair how Tracey Griesbaum is being treated and stated that there could have been a law/statute violated.

Peters attempted to clarify commissioner Carnahan's question: by adopting these four areas, does that limit the commission's focus just to these four issues or do we as commissioners bring other issues to the commission such as the one just raised by commissioner Carnahan?

Carnahan agreed with Peters' clarification and added that the previous document the commission did (in 2008-2011) addresses more of what was going on in the legislative arena, whereas the 2015 document is more of a priority document. Carnahan asked if it would be better to add this as an agenda item for discussion at the next ICSW meeting.

Coonan stated she likes the idea of adding this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Peters summarized: the commission has adopted a proactive agenda for legislators so that when they ask us what our top priorities are, the priorities listed on this document are the commission's top priorities. But, as commissioner Carnahan stated, the commission may have other issues outside of the scope of the commission's priorities come up and commissioners may add those to the agenda of the commission's meetings to make sure those other issues are addressed and to see if there are any follow-ups required.

Commissioner Carnahan and commissioner Hunt Russian stated that they both agreed with that summary.

Peters asked if there was a reasonable system to let commissioners know what key things are happening with regard to legislation and/or news surrounding the commission's four key priority areas. She added that there might be other allied groups that the commission could partner with to follow some of the top issues that are on each group's agenda – those groups might be able to give the commission a sense of how we can plug in and follow the issues.

Coonan added that what might be helpful is getting information from different groups and forwarding information from different groups to the commissioners.

Hunt Russian added that she also thinks it is important to leverage relationships with other groups so that the commission can follow how things are moving.

Peters suggested that Corey find out how the other offices within the Community Advocacy Services do this so that the commission is working effectively and not recreating the wheel.

Hunt Russian asked Corey to provide the commission with: 1) a simple one page document through email to update the commission on the process Corey will use to track legislation for the commission and how she will let the commissioners know; and 2) a document summarizing the links that are sent to the commission as they are tied to each policy priority (i.e., "over the course of the past three months, here is a link that was sent to us").

Carnahan added that when Corey disseminates the legislative-tracking information to commissioners it would be helpful to say to which committee the legislation is assigned.

Corey stated that at the commission's request, she will track legislation according to the four priorities in the commission's 2015 Issues and Policy Priorities document and will add which committee it is assigned to. She added that she will check with other offices within the Community Advocacy Services division to see how the other offices let commissioners know about legislation related to their priorities.

Sewell added that he appreciates all of the updates Corey sends out and would like to help the commission out in any way he can.

Corey briefly went over the plan for February 26th, 2015, which will be the commission's next meeting and a day-long department-wide Iowa Department of Human Rights day. Corey stated that from 7-9, the Iowa Department of Human Rights will be having a legislative social on the rotunda of the State Capitol building for all divisions and commissions within DHR; followed by an ICSW commission meeting in room 415 of the Lucas Building from 9 to noon. From noon to 1:00 p.m. will be lunch (on own); followed by the Iowa Department of Human Rights board meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. From 3 to 5 p.m., the Iowa Department of Human Rights will then have an open house on the second floor of the Lucas Building for all of the agencies, community organizations, and commissioners that DHR works with. She added that commissioners are invited and encouraged to attend all activities if their schedule allows. Corey added that she will send this information out in writing so that all commissioners have it.

Peters added that the Iowa Women's Leadership Project will be having an event to roll-out the 2015 She Matters report on Feb. 17th, 2015 and that she will send more information out about the day as the day draws nearer.

Public Comments

Peters opened the meeting up for public comment.

Kay Oskvig stated that she appreciates the recent ICSW website and listserv updates. She stated that she found out about today's conference call because of the listserv message that went out last week. She also stated that she is glad the commission has set priorities and is familiar with a legislative tool that is used to track bills and proposed legislation through the Legislative Services Agency's website. Oskvig added that she works as an attorney in Fairfield and is interested in helping in any way she can.

Adjournment

Coonan made a motion to adjourn. Gudenkauf seconded the motion.

Ayes: all

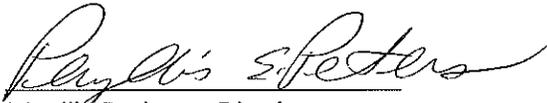
Nay: none

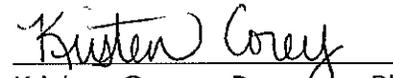
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kristen Corey, Program Planner.

Respectfully submitted:


Phyllis Peters, Chair


Kristen Corey, Program Planner