



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

**MINUTES**  
**Iowa Commission on the Status of Women**  
**February 26, 2015**  
**Room 415, Lucas State Office Building,**  
**321 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St, Des Moines, IA**

**Commissioners present**

Elizabeth Coonan  
Rachelle Hunt Russian  
Aaron Sewell  
Dave Gudenkauf  
Sherill Whisenand

**DHR/ICSW staff**

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

**Members of the public - present for all or part of the meeting**

Janie Edmunds-Wells, Office of Minority and Cultural Health, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Karla Fultz McHenry, Executive Vice President, Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women

**Call to order**

Called to order by temporary chair, Elizabeth Coonan at 9:36 a.m.

Motion to approve minutes from November:  
Whisenand made motion; Hunt Russian seconded.  
Aye: all  
Nay: none  
Motion carried.

Motion to approve minutes from December:  
Gudenkauf made motion; Sewell seconded.  
Aye: all  
Nay: none  
Motion carried.

**Presentation: Office of Minority and Multicultural Health, Iowa Department of Public Health**

Janice Edmunds-Wells from the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health (Iowa Department of Public Health) presented to the commission, representing the advisory council for the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health. Edmunds-Wells explained the advisory council is a 15 member council, representing 6 public health regions throughout Iowa. The population served by the council includes the uninsured, underinsured, refugees, immigrants, women and the children/teen population in Iowa.

Edmunds-Wells provided handouts and brochures describing the work of the council and also informational handouts created to recruit women of color to health occupations. She outlined some of the work that she has done throughout her career, including working with the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women previously under the direction of Charlotte Nelson.

Edmunds-Wells added that she is available for presentations and is able to travel throughout the state to provide presentations to organizations at no cost to those organizations. She added that if there are any organizations that would be interested in having her for a presentation to let her know.

**Iowa Women's Leadership Project (IWLP) & SHE MATTERS action report**

Corey provided an overview of the *SHE MATTERS: 2015 Issues and Actions* report roll-out and statewide forum for women and girls that took place on February 17, 2015.

Corey stated that the goal of the roll-out at the rotunda was to talk to legislators about the six issues presented in the report: 1) economic self-sufficiency, 2) leadership, 3) pay equity, 4) safety from violence, 5) STEM careers, and 6) women-owned businesses. In the report, there is data provided for each of these areas to give the status of women and girls in Iowa and also action steps for businesses, individuals, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and elected officials.

She added that the goal of the statewide forum was to gather input from women and women's organizations from throughout the state with the ultimate goal of finding out how we can all work together to move these six issues forward.

Corey added that all of the priorities the ICSW has picked for 2015 priorities (1 – safety, 2 – pay equity and women in poverty, 3 – leadership, 4 – women in business) align with the issues presented in the 2015 SHE Matters report. Currently, the Commission and Friends of ICSW have taken a leadership role on the Gender Balance Project and the Friends of ICSW has developed a marketing plan to take this to communities throughout the state. This means staff time will be dedicated to Gender Balance Project in 2015-2016. This also means staff may be pulled into other projects to partner with other organizations to do the work (such as helping to host community forums, additional research, etc.).

**Iowa Department of Human Rights, Office on the Status of Women report**

Corey outlined several requests or items of interest for the commission since the last Iowa Commission on the Status of Women meeting. One of these requests is from Kathy Nesteby from the Iowa Task Force for Young Women for the commission to write a letter of support for a grant the Iowa Task Force for Young Women is applying for.

Corey stated that the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women have signed on as the fiscal agent for this grant.

**Motion for the commission to complete the process of writing a letter of support for the efforts of the Iowa Task Force for Young Women's Iowa Girls' Justice Initiative and to have the letter signed by Phyllis Peters, chair of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women:**

Commissioner Whisenand made the motion. Hunt Russian seconded the motion.

Aye: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

**Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women report**

Karla Fultz McHenry shared some of the ways the Friends of the ICSW has demonstrated its financial support and collaboration for the Office on the Status of Women, Iowa Department of Human Rights. Karla and other Friends board members shared information with commissioners at prior meetings, and today's updated included these items related to Friends' support:

- provided financial stipends for the interns who work with the office;
- offset some of the costs that interns/staff incur for their work;
- help with some of the priorities of the commission, particularly related to the Gender Balance Initiative, She Matter, and organization coalition-building;
- involvement with the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame.

Fultz McHenry added that one of the things that is of concern for the Friends of the ICSW is that in the past, the Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR) has paid annual membership dues of \$275 for membership to the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW). The DHR did not pay the dues in 2014 and will not again in 2015. Fultz McHenry stated that this is concerning for the Friends of the ICSW because the Friends Board has always paid for lodging and travel expenses for Office on the Status of Women staff to attend the national conference. Fultz McHenry added that Iowa has a long history with the NACW and Iowa staff previously held leadership positions with NACW. If Iowa is no longer a member, Iowa will be missed. Fultz McHenry would like someone from the commission to ask the question of why the DHR won't pay for NACW dues. Fultz McHenry stated that the Friends of the ICSW will continue to pay for lodging and other expenses, but would like to ask that the membership question be reviewed.

Fultz McHenry also let the commission know that the Friends of the ICSW has developed new marketing materials, such as a new banner, a new logo, etc. She

added that the Friends of the ICSW will continue to do fundraising activities and invite the commission to be a part of those activities.

**Policy priorities: Discussion of public policy issues before The General Assembly**

Corey outlined the legislative tracking she was asked to do by the commission during this legislative session. Much discussion followed by commissioners. The commission decided unanimously that Corey will schedule a follow-up conference call after the first funnel date to discuss what actions the commission would like to take.

**Iowa Women's Hall of Fame, 2015**

Coonan gave an update on the 2015 selection committee, reporting that commissioner Hunt Russian has agreed to chair the 2015 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame selection committee and is in the process of appointing other commissioners to the committee. Commissioners Whisenand, Coonan, and Gudenkauf offered to be on the committee if commissioner Hunt Russian is looking for commissioners to serve.

**Public comment**

None.

**Action to set commission dates for 2015**

**Motion to set quarterly meeting for August 22nd, 2015:**

Commissioner Whisenand made the motion. Hunt Russian seconded the motion.

Aye: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed which date worked best for a meeting date in November.

**Motion to set quarterly meeting for November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.:**

Commissioner Whisenand made the motion. Gudenkauf seconded the motion.

Aye: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Hunt Russian made a motion to adjourn. Whisenand seconded the motion.

Ayes: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Phyllis Peters, Chair



Kristen Corey, Program Planner