



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



MINUTES
Iowa Commission on the Status of Women
August 25, 2012
Embassy Suites | Board Room
101 East Locust Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

Commissioners Present for all or part of the meeting:

Tom Carnahan	Phyllis Peters
David Gudenkauf	Joan Axel
Brian Mueller	Beth Coonan
Jill Olsen	

DHR/ICSW staff:

Heidi Smith

Members of the Public:

Jean Downs Pascek from Brookfield, Wisconsin

Call to order

Call to order by Chair Phyllis Peters at 2:10pm
Quorum was established.

Motion by Dave Gudenkauf to approve agenda.

Seconded by Tom Carnahan
Vote: Aye: all Nay: none Abstaining: none

Motion by Joan Axel to approve minutes for Oct. 3, 2011 and June 1, 2012.

Seconded by Jill Olsen
Vote: Aye: all Nay: none Abstaining: none

Report and review-Iowa Women's Hall of Fame

Tom Carnahan-chair of the Hall of Fame committee reported on the Women's Hall of Fame. He stated that it went well and thanked everyone for helping. He stated that Lisa Scott did good job. He recommended that the biographies for the nominations be done earlier next year. This year they were due May 1st.

Tom Carnahan made a motion to change the deadline for Iowa Women's Hall of Fame nominees to April 1, 2013.



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Joan Axel seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Dave Gudenkauf stated to begin promotion of the event through the media in February and March or even earlier. Phyllis Peters stated that March is Women's History Month, and in past years Office on Status of Women put its focus on an essay contest. In her view, that may have obscured or delayed promotion of the HOF when instead, the celebration of HOF could be linked in HOF promotion to widely encourage nominations to the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. She reminded the commission that March is women's history month. Joan Axel mentioned to tap into the email list of prior attendees for the "Women You Know, Women You Should Meet" for a call for nominations. Phyllis Peters also mentioned to get the word out about nominations to county Human Rights Commissions.

Further reporting of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame: Joan Axel reported on the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. She stated the house was full and it was very well done. The reception and the luncheon were hurried. She stated in the future for further discussion changing the time of the awards ceremony. Phyllis Peters stated that the last luncheon was done in 2008 and the Friends put the event together. Phyllis stated that the Department of Human Rights purchased video equipment and the event was recorded. The Friends and commission will see how they can use the footage and remarks to market the event.

DHR Board Report:

Jill Olsen gave the DHR Board Report. She explained a brief history of the board. The DHR (Dept. of Human Rights) reorganized so the 13 commissions could work together. The board's function is support and advisory to the DHR. In the 18 month history of the DHR board, there have been 3 department heads. It has been tough to build the board. Last December strategic planning began. It has been hard to get quorum for meetings. The facilitator that began the strategic planning in December is coming back Sept. 17th to meet with the board.

Olsen stated that as a point of clarification, the strategic plan is for the DHR board and not the DHR. The board met yesterday to vote on the DHR budget. Olsen stated that she put aside her role as the chair of the board and advocated for the ICSW staffing issues. ICSW went from 4 paid staff to .5 FTE staff. Olsen stated that Bob Tyson, member of the DHR board at large met with the Governor on behalf of the NAACP for 45 minutes last Saturday. Olsen passed around the talking points that Bob Tyson shared with the DHR board.

Olsen, as the chair of the DHR board, requested that each commission submit priorities of their talking points to give to the DHR board. Olsen shared that represented on the DHR board are both direct care commissions versus policy/advocacy commissions. Olsen also shared a document from Rachel's budget hearing information from CAS which is an overview of the staffing situation. (Olsen passed this document around)



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Department of Human Rights Report/Commission Discussion:

Heidi Smith, Deputy Director of the Department of Human Rights, passed out the performance plan for the CAS department for the DHR. Smith explained the purpose of the plan is to align with the budget of the department and the SPA's (Services, projects, and activities) of the department.

Phyllis asked how do we align the function of ICSW with the CAS Division? She recalled a recent conversation with Joan Axel in which Joan suggested that in the Commission's prior operation, DHR was not the 'guiding star for the ICSW' – as the ICSW had been created as an autonomous office and didn't have to wait for directives from DHR.

Joan Axel DHR was not the guiding star for the ISCW and that it was autonomous from the dept. and didn't have to wait on other pieces. The commission met with Director Wong in July 2011 and nothing came from that. Joan Axel stated when the commission was more of an advocacy and information group the mission was being accomplished more. With the restructuring, much of this doesn't seem to be achievable.

Phyllis stated that the commission was not hitching itself to the dept. in prior years. The independence was more often in previous years, functioning and purposeful. Tom pointed out the staffing issues related to the FTE decreasing. Phyllis Peters asked the question, "What does success look like for us"? Heidi stated that there is a place for autonomy with the commission that should be independent of the office.

Heidi discussed the open position (Program Planner 2) within the Office of Status of Women. Phyllis explained the two positions, Executive Officer and Program Planner 2. Each position works within the Office of the Status of Women and Office of Asian Pacific Islanders. The commission discussed the position set up within the Office of the Status of Women within DHR. Phyllis Peters stated the .5 FTE Program Planner and .5 FTE Executive Officer is not working, based on the past year. David Gudenkauf stated that the ISCW mission is getting buried in other missions. Joan Axel asked "What does the commission do?" Jill Olsen stated the amount of time that is put in direct services and putting out fires is not working towards systems change. Working towards system change is using our resources in an effective manner. Heidi Smith also suggested that there is a need for this staff person to work with system change in mind.

There are many women's groups active in Iowa. The commission needs to hook up with these groups. Dr. Jill suggested a letter of support for a person for each office. Tom suggested the commissioners recommend the 2 staff that equal 1FTE become 1 FT person. The concern has been that over the past year, the way the staffing has been set up is not effective.



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David Gudenkauf motioned that to fulfill the mission of the Commission of the Status of Women and in the interest of efficiency, we respectfully request a full time employee for the office of the Status of Women to encompass both the programming and executive duties, staying within the allocation.

Jill Olsen seconded the motion

Vote: Aye: all 6 present commissioners voted yes (7th commissioner didn't get to vote due to phone issues) No: none Abstaining: Joan Axel

Phyllis Peters stated she will be discussing with the governor's staff her concerns about staffing issues at the Office of the Status of Women.

Friends of the ISCW Report:

Friends report was tabled due to no one in attendance to provide the report.

Future Commission Meeting:

Phyllis Peters suggested postponing the Mitchellville visit and discussing this at the next meeting.

The next commission meeting will be on Oct. 24th, 2012 from 9:30am-11:30am at the Lucas Building (room TBD).

Public Comment:

No public comment

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn meeting from Tom Carnahan

Second from Dave Gudenkauf

Vote: Aye: all No: none Abstaining: none

Adjournment at 3:26 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis Peters, Chair

Heidi Smith, Deputy Director of DHR