

**MINUTES
COUNTY OF SONOMA
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Thursday, August 10, 2023

6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

Commissioners Present:

First District: Jan Blalock, Joanne M. Brown (OAL), Nancy Padian

Second District: Caitlin Quinn (Chair), Katie Gordon, Julie Shulman

Third District: Ofra Isler, Ana Diaz-Garcia, Melanie Jones-Carter

Fourth District: Gina Fortino Dickson (Vice Chair)*

Fifth District: Jessica Wood, Angie Dillon-Shore, Zobida McCorquodale

*** Commissioner Fortino Dickson arrived late at approximately 6:02pm**

Meeting held through publicly available link via Zoom Meeting, and in-person

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Roll call was conducted by the Chair.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commissioner Wood read the Land acknowledgement.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

No Public Comment.

4. PRESENTATION BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY

Chair Quinn introduced Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry by reading a brief bio of her career. Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry represents the 4th District- largely rural counties in the north bay including part of Sonoma County and she is the Vice Chair of the California Legislative Women's Caucus. She is the newly elected Speaker Pro-Tempore of the California State Assembly. This will give the rural communities a stronger voice especially about issues relating to rural women. Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry provided an overview of different Bills impacting women and girls which are being considered by the Legislature including significant ones that she authored or co-authored. She stressed needing support for a Constitutional amendment which she co-sponsored and will be on the 2024 ballot to decrease the voting requirements for local government bonds to 55% from the current two thirds requirement.

5. APPROVAL OF JULY 13, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the July 13, 2023 meeting minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Fortino Dickson
Second: Commissioner Blalock

Ayes: 12
Absent: 0

Noes: 0
Abstained: 1

Chair Quinn abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

6. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- a. Chair Quinn announced tabling opportunity at Sonoma State University “Women in Conversation” on September 20, 2023 from 3-6pm. She asked for two volunteers for this event. She also announced that the Officers voted to approve co-sponsoring an event with Petaluma Chapter of the American Association University Women. Since this event is the same day in November as the Commission’s regular meeting, she proposed having the Commission meet at the same location after the event.
- b. Staff reminded the Commissioners about attending the Board of Supervisor’s meeting on August 22, 2023 to receive the Women’s Equality Day Resolution. Chair Quinn shared dates and locations where the Women’s Equality Day Resolution will be presented at city council meetings in Sonoma County.

7. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENT

- a. Commissioner Blalock and Wood were invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for Athena House. They are allowed to bring a guest and they invited other Commissioners who are interested to attend. Commissioner Blalock announced that Chris Castillo from Verity is retiring and will be given a GOLD resolution on Tuesday, August 15, 2023. She invited everyone to attend.
- b. Commissioner Padian reported that a report on the reproductive health adhoc and pharmacy access project will be ready soon and the full report will be presented to the Commission in forthcoming months.
- c. Commissioner Gordon announced that the VOICES report will be finalized by the end of August and will be shared with the Commission. She also announced that she will be the point of contact for Gender Equity Policy Institute on their study about the reproductive landscape of the Bay Area. She is reaching out to individuals and organizations in Sonoma County to recruit participants.

8. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS

- a. Chair Quinn announced one opening in the 2nd district and two openings in the 4th district.

9. STRATEGIC PLANNING (order is subject to change)

- a. The Commission reviewed mission statements from other Commissions. The Mission statement of the CSW is as follows: The purpose of the Commission is to promote equal rights and opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls and to address issues of discrimination and prejudice that negatively affect women in Sonoma County.
- b. Commissioner Fortino Dickson facilitated a visioning activity. After exercises and much discussion, the Commission finalized a draft of their new vision: We use our platform to influence decision makers and empower the community to eliminate systemic barriers to full equity. We work to ensure that women will have an equal representation in leadership role and political positions and that women will have unlimited economic freedom, social mobility, and reproductive freedom.
- c. In September, the Commission will finalize the Commission vision. Commissioners who had been submitted workplans were asked to review those and assess whether they aligned with the draft Vision and if not, to withdraw them.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 COMMISSION MEETING

Proposal, discussion, and possible action items for next Commission meeting. (No action required by commissioners for this section)

11. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.