

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

Thursday, September 14, 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

Fourth District: Gina Fortino Dickson (Vice Chair)

Fifth District: Jessica Wood, Angie Dillon-Shore

Commissioners Absent:

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

Fourth District: Melissa Hernandez

Fifth District: Zobida McCorquodale

* Commissioner Brown and Padian arrived late at approximately 6:18pm

* Commissioner Shulman attended via Zoom (AB 2449 excuse)

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. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 10, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the August 10, 2023 meeting minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Blalock

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Isler

Absent: 6

Abstained: 1

Commissioner Diaz-Garcia, Jones-Carter, McCorquodale, and Hernandez were absent. Commissioner Brown and Padian arrived late. Chair Quinn abstained as

Chair. Motion passed.

5. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- a. Chair Quinn announced that CSW is moving storage units and asked for volunteers to clean and move storage units the weekend of September 23rd. Commissioner Dillon-Shore and Shulman will be tabling at Sonoma State University “Women in Conversation” on September 20, 2023 from 3-6pm. Commissioner Brown and Blalock will be tabling at the Reproductive Rights Event in Petaluma on November 9th, the same day as the Commission’s regular meeting date. The November meeting will be in Petaluma at the Human Services building, 5350 Old Redwood Hwy N, Petaluma, CA 94954.
- b. Staff announced that the Commission can use the Human Resources OWL to continue the hybrid meetings in different County locations.

6. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENT

- a. Commissioner Wood announced that she will be a judge at Champion for Childrens’ event.
- b. Commissioner Blalock attended the 4Cs event and it was fun. She also attended the ribbon cutting at Athena House. There has been problems with the license thing, but the building is huge and fits more individuals, and they can stay longer. Everything got remodeled. Some supervisors and Mike Thompson were there at the event as well.

7. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS

- a. Chair Quinn announced one opening in the 2nd district and one opening in the 4th district.
- b. Commissioner Hernandez oath of office got moved to next meeting due to her absence.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Terry Winter from Healthcare For All Working Group presented for Health Care for All. Terry Winter provided data to identify how the healthcare is worst in the United States compared to other countries. The cost for health care is too high and the death rate is higher in the United States. He urged the Commission to support this as it impacts women especially with reproductive care. They had a discussion on how this item is being supported by healthcare providers and how this will roll out if passed. Healthcare will not be tied to employment, and this will transform everything.
- b. The Resolution in Support of Single-Payer Health Care was reviewed, and Chair Quinn led the discussion in supporting the proclamation. Motion to pass the

proclamation and to send a letter to all bodies of government to advance this concept.

Public Comment:

- Julia Rapkin

Motion: Commissioner Brown	Ayes: 9	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Blalock	Absent:4	Abstained: 1

Commissioner Diaz-Garcia, Jones-Carter, McCorquodale, and Hernandez were absent. Chair Quinn abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

- c. Chair Quinn read the new vision statement “We use our collective voice to influence decision-makers and empower the community to eliminate systemic barriers to full equity. We work to ensure women have social mobility, economic autonomy, reproductive freedom, and equitable representation in leadership roles.” No discussion and a motion to pass the vision statement was taken.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Brown	Ayes: 9	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Wood	Absent:4	Abstained: 1

Commissioner Diaz-Garcia, Jones-Carter, McCorquodale, and Hernandez were absent. Chair Quinn abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

- d. Chair Quinn led the presentations of ad-hocs, potential coordinator roles, projects, and liaison opportunities.

1. **Voices Ad Hoc:** Commissioner Gordon proposed to finish the Voices Report project. They will try to get the 60 pages report out to the community in white papers, presentations and in newspaper ads. Their focus is getting the information from the report out in bits of pieces to the community.
2. **Bylaws Ad Hoc:** Commissioner Gordon proposed to assemble a group of Commissioners to finish the bylaws revisions that previous Officers initiated and add clarity to the bylaws.
3. **Community Engagement Ad Hoc or Coordinator:** Commissioner Wood proposed to create a plan for tabling, sponsorship, social media post, and press releases to make the Commission more visible in the public.

Some Commissioners and staff voiced to add other tasks to this ad hoc, such as CSW website, handling the photo releases, and Spirit Award. This discussion will continue next meeting to finalize this concept.

4. **Women's March Coordinator:** Commissioner Diaz-Garcia proposed in having a march in March for Women's History Month every year to honor Sonoma County Women. Commissioner Blalock suggested re-naming it to something differently because the title is a trademark name and therefore, the march would need to be in January.
5. **Spirit Awards:** Vice Chair Fortino Dickson proposed this event to be handled by the Community Engagement Coordinator. Commissioner Brown suggested to change the name. There was an opposition to add more tasks to the Community Engagement Coordinator.
6. **Junior Commission Project:** Commissioner Isler will be the coordinator for the project and will recruit mentors soon once the juniors have their projects chosen.
7. **Legislative Advisory Group:** Vice Chair Fortino Dickson proposed to continue the work of advising the Board of Supervisors on women and girls' issues. This committee reviews different state and local Bills and respond to those Bills with support or opposition.
8. **Reproductive Health:** Commissioner Brown and Padian would like to increase access to reproductive health-abortion and contraception. They reviewed the project from FY 22/23. For FY23/24, they would like to do more focus groups, modify their stickers to address pharmacy access, and track the introduction of Ophill in Sonoma County. IF SB 541 passes, they will create an awareness campaign.
9. **Childcare:** This item was suggested to help individually instead of the Commission as a whole. Commissioner Blalock suggested to have a liaison perhaps with 4C.
10. **Mental health:** Commissioner Shulman proposed to provide workshops in various Districts and teach resilience practices to create a preventative mental health, but this doesn't align with the new vision the Commission voted on.
11. **Economic opportunity:** Commissioner Gordon suggested hearing what the Community need and taking the data from the report. Staff suggested to reach out to Job Link and create a job fair to help women get high paying jobs.

Motion to pass the Voices Ad Hoc. Members are Commissioner Isler, Shulman, Blalock, Gordon.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Fortino Dickson	Ayes: 9	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Padian	Absent:4	Abstained: 1

Commissioner Diaz-Garcia, Jones-Carter, McCorquodale, and Hernandez were absent. Chair Quinn abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

Motion to pass the Bylaws Ad Hoc. Members are Commissioner Gordon and Fortino Dickson

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Gordon	Ayes: 9	Noes: 0
Second: Commissioner Wood	Absent:4	Abstained: 1

Commissioner Diaz-Garcia, Jones-Carter, McCorquodale, and Hernandez were absent. Chair Quinn abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

e. Social Media Policy item was postponed to next meeting.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 12, 2023 COMMISSION MEETING

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

a. Continue to vote on the ad hocs, projects and liaisons and their budget proposals

10. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.