

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

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**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

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**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Third District:** Ofra Isler, Ana Diaz-Garcia, Melanie Jones-Carter (Vice-Chair)

**Fourth District:** Gina Fortino Dickson (Chair)

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

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Second District:** Katie Gordon, Julie Shulman, Rebecca Kaykas-Wolff

**\*Commissioner Padian 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 6:06 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 NOVEMBER 9, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to approve the November 9, 2023 meeting minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Blalock

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Brown

Absent: 3

Abstained: 3

Commissioners Gordon, Shulman, and Kaykas-Wolff were absent. Commissioner Wood and McCorquodale abstained due to their absences. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

**5. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

- a. Staff invited everyone to attend the January 23, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting to support the Human Trafficking Gold Resolution.
- b. Chair Fortino Dickson encouraged Commissioners to seek guest speakers for the Commission meetings. She invited Dr. Venus Opal Reese to speak on women in poverty in March.
- c. Commissioner Brown spoke on an invitation from Impact 100. Impact 100 is in Sonoma Valley that was started by a few women who wanted to support nonprofit organizations in the Valley. Members donate funds, (\$1250.00/annually) to annual priorities. They invited the Commission to send a speaker. Commissioner Brown will speak on the findings of the Voices report, human trafficking and reproductive health.

## **6. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENT**

- a. Commissioner Blalock reported on the Safety Event on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> which Commissioner McCorquodale, Diaz-Garcia, and Blalock attended. Many of the organizations from Human Trafficking Task Force showed up. Commissioner Blalock shared brochures that she collected at the event and mentioned that the Press Democrat interviewed her. Commissioner Diaz-Garcia shared her interaction with a Probation Officer at the event.
- b. Commissioner Blalock announced that the Poly Class Foundation will be having an event on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> regarding Internet safety for kids. Finding Kids is having an event on January 20<sup>th</sup>. She posted information on CSW Facebook.

## **7. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Chair Fortino Dickson announced two openings in the 4<sup>th</sup> district. She has been in close communication with Supervisor Gore and Jenny Chamberlain. Jenny Chamberlain has appointments to meet with two applicants.

## **8. AD HOC AND PROJECT UPDATES**

- a. Voices Report Ad Hoc announced that they are creating **one sheets** per topic with data and findings relevant to Sonoma County and social media posts for their topics with graphics and data. Once they have the material ready, they will share with the Engagement Committee. They are also thinking of linking different organizations to certain topics on social media. Mount St Mary's Center is still working on the Spanish translation of the report.
- b. Reproductive Rights Ad Hoc announced that the report has been shared with the Sonoma Valley Board of Education in Sonoma Valley. They are finalizing the pharmacy access component of the report. They ask that each Commissioner reach out to one high school in their district, to see if issues are the same. They might work with the Junior Commission Menstrual Project. The gap between menstruation, education and reproductive education is enormous.

- c. Junior Commission Educational Project announced that they will start recruitment soon for 2024-2025. Recommendations were provided to increase participation from District 5. Perhaps doing in-person presentations in District 5 or producing a video for recruitment that can be posted on their Instagram. They are getting ready for the annual career panel. Junior Commissioners would like information for STEM or educational internships. The Boys and Girls Club in Roseland has a STEM lab. The Junior Commission will be meeting Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> for a team building exercise.
- d. Legislative Advisory Group reported that the State Women's Legislative Women's Committee has introduced and was able to obtain passage of many bills related to women's reproductive health, e.g., protection from prosecution for the support that it provides to women as well as medical practitioners coming into the State to get some health care or training. The legislative group might meet via zoom by the end of the month. They also announced that Sonoma County Childcare and Children's Health initiative is being supported by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. The committee was authorized to send a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors.
- e. Community Engagement Working Group met and are meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> to calendar events. They will be hosting a Spirt Award in May but would like to have add a similar award on behalf of the Junior Commission. It would be a combined event. They want to do something for Women's History Month. Chair Fortino Dickson reminded that we have the Women's History Month Gold Resolution being presented to the BOS in March. She also would like to have the Resolution approved from each city council. The committee would like to do something that involves "Get Out to Vote" in March. This excludes candidate endorsement. After they meet on the 27<sup>th</sup>, they will have more.
- f. Bylaws Review Committee didn't have anything to report but was giving the assignment of defining the calendar year for the purpose of CSW activities and attendance. Currently, calendar year is not clearly or consistently defined.

## **9. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- a. Chair Fortino Dickson led the Women History Month Gold Resolution discussion and review. Commissioners Blalock, Isler and Dillon-Shore made suggested edits to add an "s" and to add the word "National" in front of all Women History Month phases. The resolution will be presented on March 12, 2024 around 1:30pm. Motion to pass the Women History Month Gold Resolution with suggested edits.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Blalock  
Second: Commissioner Wood

Ayes: 9      Noes: 0  
Absent: 3     Abstained: 1

Commissioners Gordon, Shulman, and Kaykas-Wolff were absent. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

**10.** Commissioner Blalock led the discussion on continuing the Commission’s partnership and participation with Sonoma County Human Trafficking Task Force. Commissioner Blalock explained the scope of the liaison’s commitment, which includes meeting monthly from 2 to 3PM on the last Thursday of the month in person or via zoom at the Family Justice Center. Commissioner Blalock recommends that she remain as a volunteer, and she can represent the Commission. Commissioner Brown and Chair Fortino-Dickson agreed with Commissioner Blalock to wait to name a replacement to see if a commissioner really wants to be the liaison with Sonoma County Human Trafficking Task Force and have Commissioner Blalock continue to represent the Commission in the interim. No Action was Taken.

**11.** Chair Fortino Dickson led the discussion to attend **Los Cien** event “Behind the Lines Part IV, Experiences and Rights of Farmworker Women” on February 8, 2024 from 5pm-8pm. This event will present interviews of female farmworkers and their experiences, and they will hear about women in the farm worker industry and how this work impacts them. This is an area of the Commission’s focus. Chair Fortino Dickson proposed that CSW sponsor the event ( \$1,000), invite all Commissioners to attend, and the Commission’s name will be displayed as a sponsor. The Commission acknowledged that the CSW submission form for sponsoring a community event used in prior years was excused in this case due to the emergency circumstances of the event. Motion was made to cancel the Commission’s regular February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow attending the event and to sponsor the event for a \$1,000. Commissioner Brown proposed a “friendly amendment” to the motion requiring each ad hoc and project submit an update of their activities for that month so that the ad hocs continue to make progress and support each other.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Diaz-Garcia  
Second: Commissioner Blalock

Ayes: 8      Noes: 0  
Absent: 3     Abstained: 2

Commissioners Gordon, Shulman, and Kaykas-Wolff were absent. Commission Dillon-Shore abstained due to her position in the Los Cien Board. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

**12.** Chair Fortino-Dickson announced that the Bylaws Committee will be reviewing the Attendance Policy and revising it because it needs to be more specific with the phrase “during twelve (12) month period”. No Action was taken.

**13.** The Officers created an Inaugural award called the “Jan Blalock Award”. It was presented to Commissioner Blalock for her years of dedication to women and girls of Sonoma County. Commissioners shared warm, heartfelt words to honor Commissioner Blalock. Commissioner Blalock will be honored at the Commission on Human Rights meeting on January 23, 2024 and everyone was invited to attend.

**14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING**

Meeting is cancelled. Commissioners may attend educational program on February 8 at Los Cien “Behind the Lines Part IV, Experiences and Rights of Farmworker Women” from 5pm-8pm.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.