

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

Thursday, May 9, 2024

6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

Commissioners Present:

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

Second District: Rebecca Kaykas-Wolff

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

Fourth District: Gina Fortino Dickson (Chair), Letitia Hanke

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

Commissioners Absent:

First District: Haunani Pakaki

Second District: Katie Gordon (Leave of absence), Julie Shulman

***Vice-Chair Jones-Carter attended via Zoom (AB 2449 Excuse)**

**** Commissioner Wood arrived late at approximately 6:05pm**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:01 p.m. Roll call taken by Staff.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commissioner McCorquodale read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

No Public Comment.

4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY CARLA RODRIGUEZ PRESENTATION

D.A. Carla Rodriguez has been a member of the Sonoma County Women in Law for 20 years and President for 2 years, supporting and promoting women in all areas of the legal field which includes lawyers, paralegals, and others in the legal profession. D.A. Rodriguez explained what the duties of her office. The District Attorney Office has over 140 employees and approximately 50 attorneys. They Office consists of multiple divisions: the Criminal Division which includes the Elder Protection Unit, Environmental Consumer Law Division, and Victim Services Division and the Family Justice Center. She provided examples of the cases that each Division handles and discussed in detail the work of the Domestic Violence Unit, Sex Assault Unit, and Environmental Consumer Fraud Unit.

5. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 11, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the April 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Brown

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Isler

Absent: 4

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Pakaki and Shulman were absent. Commissioner Gordon is on leave of absence. Commissioner Wood arrived late. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

6. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- a. Officers are in the process of formalizing the onboarding process for new Commissioners.
- b. Chair Fortino Dickson announced that the Community Engagement Working Group is splitting into two groups due to the numbers of members: marketing and community engagement group.

7. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENT

- a. Commissioners Diaz-Garcia and Wood tabled at the Cinco de Mayo Event and shared that the table with the new features was very popular including the wheel. More giveaway material will be ordered.

8. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS

- a. Chair Fortino Dickson shared that Commissioner Shulman will not be seeking reappointment and this was her final meeting.
- b. Commissioner Dillon-Shore announced that she will not be asking for reappointment due to her commitment to First 5 Sonoma County to implement the \$33 million of funding they are hoping to get from the passage of the Child Care tax .
- c. Commissioner Pakaki was unable to attend, but she has taken her oath of office.
- d. June meeting will be in-person only at the Museum of Sonoma County at 425 7th St., Santa Rosa, 95401 from 6pm-8pm. The Spirit Award Event will go at 6pm and the meeting will start at 7pm.
- e. Chair Fortino Dickson announced one vacancy for Commissioner in the Fourth District.

9. AD HOC AND PROJECT UPDATES

- a. The Women’s Recovery Response Ad Hoc scheduled all their Facebook posts and indicated that they will not be boosting their post. The 2023 Report on the Status of Women in Sonoma County report will be shared on June 19 at a lunch or breakfast event at Sally Tomatoes, where we will invite local womens groups and

individuals who can use the information collected in the report. The report will be distributed to those attending through flash drives.

- b. The Reproductive Rights Ad Hoc is sending out requests for contacts from organizations working with farm workers in order to explore reproductive health needs of women farm workers.
- c. The Junior Commission Educational Project's annual career panel was on Saturday, April 13th and had a great turn out. The new cohort 2024-2025 will have about 22 participants. Graduation is on Saturday, May 18th in person at 2pm and Supervisor Susan Gorin will be the speaker and will handout certificates. Commissioners Padian, Diaz-Garcia, and McCorquodale volunteered to join the Junior Commission Project for 2024-2025. The Junior Commission will be reaching out to previous Junior Commissioners to establish a support network.
- d. The Legislative Advisory Group has connected with the Women's Legislative Women's Committee which provided more information about bills which will be proposed effecting women. Currently the Advisory Group is tracking AB 2740: Protections for Incarcerated persons: prenatal and postpartum care.
- e. Community Engagement Working Group met with last year's SPIRITawardees and all 5 will be judging. They will select the 5 candidates for the Spirit Award. The Spirit Award Ceremony will be during the Commission's June 13th meeting at the Museum of Sonoma County.

10. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Staff provided an overview of the budget. Women's Recovery Response Ad Hoc should have about \$1,600 unused funds. The Reproductive Rights Ad Hoc will be returning \$2,500 to the general fund. The rest of the ad hocs will spend all their allocated funds. Motion to move the unused funds from the ad hocs for a total of \$4,100 be returned to the general fund.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Brown

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Wood

Absent: 4

Abstained: 1

Commissioners Pakaki and Shulman were absent. Commissioner Gordon is on leave of absence. Commissioner Diaz Garcia left the room. Chair Fortino Dickson abstained as Chair. Motion passed.

- b. Chair Fortino Dickson pointed out the Brown Act follow-up email from County Counsel and suggested Commissioners to read it.
- c. Chair Fortino Dickson led the nominations of officers for the fiscal year 2024-2025. She went over the requirements and descriptions of each officer role. Nominations were taken.

Chair: Commissioner Jones-Carter nominated Commissioner Fortino Dickson for Chair; Fortino Dickson accepted.

Vice Chair: Commissioner Brown nominated Commissioner Jones-Carter; Jones-Carter accepted.

Officer-At-Large: Commissioner Padian nominated Commissioner Brown; Brown accepted.

Officer-At-Large: Commissioner Wood nominated Commissioner Kaykas-Wolff; Kaykas-Wolff accepted.

No action was taken. More nominations and the elections will take place on June 13, 2024.

- d. Chair Fortino Dickson led date discussion of the July strategic planning meeting. The Commission needed more options to pick from because Saturday, July 13th and Saturday July 20th didn't work for some. A Doodle poll will be going out to better determine the date.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR JUNE 13, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING

No additional items were provided.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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