

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

**Meeting Held Through Publicly Available Link Via Zoom as well as in person at  
575 Administration Drive, Ste 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

**Thursday** **January 9, 2025** **6:00PM**

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

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

**Third District:** Ofra Isler, Melanie Jones-Carter (Vice-Chair), Katarina Giudice-White

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

**Fifth District:** Zobida McCorquodale, Elizabeth Beaty

The January 9, 2025, Commission on the Status of Women Meeting will be facilitated in person. Members of the public can watch, listen, or join the meeting using one of the three following methods:

**1. JOIN IN PERSON:**

Human Resources Large Training Room  
575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Limited seating is available for public participants.

**2. JOIN VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM:**

Participate by computer, table, or smartphone application. Go to:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/94202019002?pwd=V3JCazd0MFcvR2Q3c0FYK2x3ZiRpQT09>

Webinar ID: 942 0201 9002

Passcode: 252743

**3. JOIN IN ZOOM BY TELEPHONE:**

Dial +1 (669) 900 9128

Webinar ID: 942 0201 9002

Passcode: 252743

**Instructions for the Public:**

**Agendas and Materials:**

Agendas and most supporting materials are available on the Commission's website at

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Commission-on-Status-of-Women/Calendar/>

Due to legal, copyright, privacy or policy considerations, not all materials are posted online. **NOTE:** Materials that are not posted will be available directly from the Commission

at [sococsw@sonoma-county.org](mailto:sococsw@sonoma-county.org).

**Disabled Accommodation:**

If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, an alternative format, or requires another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact the Deputy Clerk at (707) 565-1851, as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

**Approval of the Consent Calendar:**

The Consent Calendar includes routine financial and administrative actions that are usually approved by a single majority vote. There will be no discussion on these items prior to voting on the motion unless Commission Members request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar.

**Public Comment:**

Any member of the audience desiring to address the Commission on a matter on the agenda: Members of the public are invited to join this meeting in person or via Zoom teleconferencing. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the subject under discussion. Speakers will be limited to three minutes to speak; time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair. While members of the public are welcome to address the Commission, under the Brown Act, Commission members may not deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Commission on the Status of Women of Sonoma County recognizes that we are on the ancestral lands of the Pomo, Wappo, and Coast Miwok, who are the original stewards of this land. We further acknowledge that the office of the Commission on the Status of Women resides on Southern Pomo land in Santa Rosa. We respect and honor the past, present, and future generations, and are grateful for the opportunity to give our respect to the first inhabitants.

**3. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

At the beginning of each Commission meeting, any member of the public may address the Commission concerning any item not on the Commission's agenda. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes unless otherwise specified by the Chair or the Presiding Officer. The public will be given an opportunity to speak on each business item at the time it is called. The Commission may discuss and/or take action regarding any or all of the items listed below.

**4. ACKNOWLEDGE JESSICA WOOD**

Presentation of a gold resolution from Supervisor Linda Hopkins to Jessica Wood for her years on the Commission on the Status of Women.

## **5. Molly Dickens Presentation**

The Maternal Stress Project explores the stress of modern American motherhood, and what we can do about it.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. Approval of the November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

## **7. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

Officers and Staff to discuss administrative-related matters including, but not limited to, field trip ideas and speaker coordination.

## **8. REDESIGN MEETINGS**

In order to create valuable meetings and return to our original purpose of advisory to political boards and councils: We propose to design each meeting to include a mini hearing on topics that will come forward to the board of supervisors and create white papers on the effects on women in Sonoma County. We will invite resource/service providers and women with lived experience of the topic to speak to us at these meetings. Our goal is to create white papers or some such outcome that can be communicated to the supervisors in advance of any meeting they have coming up where they will discuss that topic/county services/etc.

## **9. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2025 COMMISSION MEETING**

Commissioners to provide any commission-related announcements, report on communications with supervisors, announce any tabling opportunities, and provide any agenda items for future meetings.

## **10. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Officers will report out on current openings.

- a. One vacant position in the 2<sup>nd</sup> district and one vacant position in the 5<sup>th</sup> district.

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

**Limited to 3 minutes per ad hoc and project**

- a. Junior Commission Educational Project
- b. Reproductive Equity
- c. Biz Entrepreneurship
- d. Legislative Advisory Group
- e. Communications Teams
- f. Community Engagement Working Group
- g. Bylaws

## **12. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- a. Adopt a Gold Resolution in honor of Women History Month  
Review and approve the 2025 Women History Month Resolution.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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**Thursday, November 14, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

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**Commissioners Present:**

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

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

**Third District:** Ofra Isler, Melanie Jones-Carter (Vice-Chair) \*, Katarina Giudice-White

**Fourth District:** Izzy Arreguin

**Commissioners Absent:**

**First District:** Haunani Pakaki

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

**Fifth District:** Zobida McCorquodale (Leave of absence), Elizabeth Beaty

\*Vice Chair Jones-Carter attended hybrid via Zoom per Gov't. Code Section 54953(b) at location: 2304 Columbia Dr., Flower Mound, TX 75022

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:09 p.m. Roll call taken by Staff.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Commissioner Gordon read the Land Acknowledgement.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

No Public Comment.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approval of the October 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve October 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

No Public Comment.

Motion: Commissioner Padian

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Second: Commissioner Kaykas-Wolff

Absent: 6

Abstained: 3

Commissioners Pakaki, Fortino Dickson, Hanke, and Beaty were absent. Commissioner McCorquodale is on leave of absence. Commissioners Isler and Giudice-White abstained. Officer-At-Large Brown abstained per running the meeting. Motion passed.

#### **5. OFFICER REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

- a. December meeting is cancelled, but the Commission will have a holiday gathering instead of a meeting.

#### **6. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Commissioners didn't have any announcements.

#### **7. OPENINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

- a. The Commission welcomed Katarina Giudice-White to represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. Staff completed her Oath of Office.
- b. Officer-At-Large Brown announced openings in the 2<sup>nd</sup> district and in the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

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

- a. Junior Commission Educational Project reported on their volunteer day with Girls on the Run. They had 30 volunteers. Very successful event. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Jr. Commission on Status of Women and the Youth Commission on Human Rights will co-host an Unhoused Resource Learning Day. They are asking for speakers and organizations who can table at the event. Commissioner Isler is seeking another Commissioner to take over the Junior Commission Educational Project cohort for next cohort. Commissioner Padian will still support but will not run the Educational Project by herself. Commissioner Arreguin expressed interest in managing the project. Commissioner Gordon is working on doing a program evaluation of the Junior Commission to show how successful the program is. She will contact past Junior Commissioners, create a short survey for them to complete, and then create a report on the findings.
- b. Reproductive Equity is finishing up projects from last year. They are writing a report of the pharmacy study. They are working on expanding their focus groups throughout the County to get a better representation, and they are changing their matrix from using a qualitative metrics rather than a qualitative metrics starting in January. They have a volunteer from Marin College who will draft a survey for students to complete. They will be piloting the survey in a high school. UCSF Midwifery Programs will be reduced, and they are the only school in the State with these programs. They will be doing more research on this situation and will bring forward a letter to the whole Commission weighing on the issue.
- c. Biz Entrepreneurship will be doing a workshop with behavioral style classes and Redwood Credit Union has agreed to provide space for the workshops sometime

at the end of January on a weekday at 9am. Date will be finalized soon, but the capacity is 30-35 people.

- d. Legislative Advisory Group is figuring out the new administration and will report in January.
- e. Communications Teams is seeing how to manage strategic communications. Potentially they will hire some systems like CRM systems to help. In January they will bring some examples and a more tangible strategy on the first part of their plan.
- f. Community Engagement Working Group didn't have anything to report.
- g. Bylaws didn't have anything to report.

## **9. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **a. Community Engagement**

Vice Chair Jones-Carter led the discussion on the events the Commission will be participating in for 2024-2025 Fiscal year. The following events were mentioned: Juneteenth, Pride, YWCA, Cinco de Mayo, Hispanic Heritage Month, Women in Conversation. Women's History Month Resolution, Junior Commission Career Panel, Women's Equality Day Resolution, Black History Month, 2025 Spirit Award. The Commission will finalize the event list next meeting. No action was taken.

### **b. Holiday Party**

The Commission agreed to have a festive gathering on December 12, 2024, at 6pm instead of their meeting. Details will be emailed out by Staff.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

## **Molly Dickens' Bio**



Molly Dickens, PhD, is a stress physiologist and women's health advocate based in Northern California. Molly received her doctorate from Tufts University and conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Liege in Belgium and the University of California at Berkeley. After leaving academia, Molly joined a maternal health startup as a founding team member, where she created an educational platform rooted in the science of pregnancy, engaged with birth community leaders, and led a research initiative on technology-enabled access to patient-centric perinatal care. In early 2020, Molly co-founded a nonprofit focused on identifying and addressing motherhood-related barriers that impact gender equity in the workforce. She served as the founding Executive Director until 2023, developing and implementing key strategic work while engaging with and learning from dedicated leaders across the gender equity and caregiving space.

Molly currently holds a position as a visiting researcher at the University of California at Davis, serves as a research advisor to Poppy Seed Health, and recently launched a new initiative, the Maternal Stress Project, to explore and map the stressors related to modern American motherhood.

Molly's ongoing work focuses on the intersection of stress, maternal health, and the critical expansion of structures, systems, and cultural narratives to better support the health and wellbeing of women and working caregivers. Molly has written about this work for CNN, Quartz, Harvard Business Review, MIT Sloan Management Review, and The New York Times.





**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California,**

**Resolution Proclaiming March 2025 as Women’s History Month in Sonoma County**

**Whereas,** women have always played a critical role in shaping the economic, cultural, and social fabric of our society through their participation in the labor force, working both inside and outside the home, in leadership positions, and through creative inspiration; and

**Whereas,** Women's History Month provides an opportunity for schools and communities to expand and enhance what our children and our community know about the women’s roles in history and their contributions to the development of this nation; and

**Whereas,** the story of American women is the story of women of all ages, races and cultural backgrounds who led campaigns for equality and civil rights, advanced professional and educational opportunities, founded entirely new enterprises, and contributed significantly to the arts, sciences and humanistic causes; and

**Whereas,** women from every background have long realized that an uneven playing field will never bring equality or justice, and we all need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely for our lives and institutions; and

**Whereas,** the 2025 theme for Women's History Month is “Moving forward together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations”, which celebrates the collective strength and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership; and

**Whereas,** Women’s History Month is both a call to acknowledge outstanding women we know by name and to pay homage to the dedication of nameless women who contributed to our nation.

**Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that** the Board of Supervisors, in recognition of the significant role played by women, whose courage and vision inspire hope for today’s women to make tomorrow’s history, thereby proclaim the month of March 2025 as Women’s History Month in Sonoma County.