

## **City of Bloomington, IN**

**July 6, 2017 CSW Minutes**

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**Thursday, July 6, 2017 5:35 PM**

**McCloskey Room, Suite 135**

**City Hall**

**401 N. Morton Street Bloomington, IN**

**Commissioners Present:** Jacqueline Fernette, Penny Githens, Ashley Hazelrig, Debby Herbenick, Regina Moore, Sylvia Martinez

**Commissioners Absent:** Beth Friedman Kirk, Maqube Reese, Zaira Hernandez

**County Commissioner Present:** Yvonne Zhao, volunteer with the MCWC

**High School Adjunct Members Present:** None

**Staff Liaison Present:** Sue Owens

**Community Guests present:** Debra Vance, Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington, Executive Director for Diversity & Outreach.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Debby at 5:35pm.

### **Additions to Agenda:**

- Updated information on the MCCSC Lunch Shaming issue. The BCSW signed onto a statement with the Commission on the Status of Black Males, The Commission on the Status of Children and Youth and the Hispanic and Latino Affairs Commission that was to be presented to the MCCSC School Board.
- Debra Vance's request for a BCSW member to help answer questions at an Ivy Tech outreach event for Mandela Fellows visiting Bloomington.

As there were two new people present, Debby asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Sylvia Martinez is a new BCSW member, is faculty with the IU School of Education and works with the Latino Studies Program.

Yvonne Zhao is a volunteer with the Monroe County Women's Commission and will be taking the place of Monica Dignam as she travels out of the country. Recent IU grad with an MPA, she founded the non-profit Global Citizens Empowerment. The program works with works with ESL students through coaching and workshops to empower them to succeed.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of April 2017 were reviewed and approved as corrected.

**Old Business-A. WHM Lunch – March 21, 2018**

Jaqueline noted she and Debby were co-chairing the committee and that she would send a note to members of the subcommittee to meet in August. Regina noted that it might be a good idea to secure a speaker early as the person she contacted last year for this event (Sarah Evans Barker) couldn't accommodate the request, even though it was made several months before the Luncheon. She noted Judge Sarah Evans Barker was the first woman named to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. She has senior status as a judge now, a semi-retired position.

A discussion ensued about the National Women's History Project theme for 2018. It is *NEVERTHELESS SHE PERSISTED: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*.

Jacqueline noted that there was no reason that the call for the first organizational meeting couldn't go out as soon as possible with the call for speaker ideas.

**Old Business-B. Leadership Scholarship Initiative**

Ashley noted that Maqube would be working with her in coming up with a revised application. She said it should be ready for presentation and vote at the August meeting.

Ashley began listing a few items that definitely needed to be changed, and discussion covered the following topics:

- There should not be joint applications - two people requesting an award and splitting it.
- There was a discussion about adding a note about the upper monetary limit of the award being \$500 with typical awards being \$200-\$300. In the past, the limit was \$500.
- There should be targeted marketing to groups who haven't heard of this scholarship. She noted that the scholarship was well used by just a few groups/non-profits at this time. Widening the outreach would create more diversity in award recipients.
- Language regarding the recipient be 'women' should be changed to 'women and those identifying as women.'
- The language "priority given" to projects that benefit women and girls in the community should be changed to "must" benefit women and girls in the community.

Sylvia asked if groups applied for this scholarship. Debby explained that that was not so, and that the annual \$1,000 allotment for this scholarship was insufficient to meet the increased number of applicants. It was requested that the CFRD Department Head fund this measure at \$1,500 for 2018. In the past, supplements have been added and at one point a donation of \$300 was taken into the account. Regina suggested that perhaps with current demand, proposed increase in marketing that the amount in the 2018 budget be \$2,000. There was no actual motion or discussion on that point.

There is one outstanding application, but no more funds. It was moved and seconded that Sue write to this person to inform her of this fact.

### **Report from Monroe County Women's Commission**

Yvonne reported on the plan for MCWC members to attend study sessions of the General Assembly this summer. A list of possible committees was circulated among members and several rose to the top of the list of interests: implementation of treatment providers, Indiana election law, and the shortage of health care providers in Indiana. She noted that talking points and information would be available for each of these sessions for anyone (including BCSW members) who wish to go to Indianapolis. There are no dates available at this time.

Yvonne noted that two MCSW members are planning a summit to study the effects of Opioids on September 28th. Tickets are available now on Eventbrite, and the Summit is more than half sold out.

### **ADDED AGENDA ITEM: Old Business - C. Statement on Lunch Shaming Issue.**

Jacqueline and Ashley attended the MCCSC School Board meeting on June 27th to witness and possibly participate in the discussion of Lunch Shaming.

They noted that Cornelius Wright from the Commission on the Status of Black Males read a statement, but Jacqueline said it was not clear that the statement was from all four city commissions. One other person spoke from a different commission. Our commission members didn't know if they were supposed to speak for the BCSW, but did not offer either an individual position or BCSW position on the issue. More clarification needs to be communicated on these types of joint statements in the future. Part of the problem was that the process of signing up to speak was unfamiliar to folks who had never attended a school board meeting before. Jacqueline and Ashley noted that their concerns were addressed by several other speakers.

Jacqueline said that the Superintendent clearly got the message that taking a hot meal from a child who's lunch account had a zero balance was not acceptable to the persons present at the meeting.

Ashley noted she had never attended board meetings before, and found it interesting. She was taken aback that a 45 minute hearing on spending millions of dollars on a facility, contrasting it with the emotional discussion of the \$4,000 debt of the lunch fund.

Jacqueline asked if the commissions was going to get together to explore how to solve the debt issue without shaming students. The BCSW hasn't been asked to do any more at this time.

Ashley announced that there would be a follow-up board meeting on July 25th. A proposal for district policy will be coming forth at that meeting. Ashley, reflecting the demeanor of the meeting, was skeptical that there would be a true change. She noted that parents spoke about the notification system regarding lunch accounts and that the board claimed that measures were in place to inform families of the account status. She noted that these systems didn't always work the way they should. In looking for the upcoming policy, Regina suggested watching for the board packet online which would be published ahead of the July meeting.

### **Check-in from High School Liaison**

None

### **ADDED AGENDA ITEM: Request from Debra Vance and Ivy Tech**

Debra Vance, former BCSW member, spoke of the Mandela Washington Fellows visiting the community from Africa. These students are being hosted by IU, Ivy Tech, and IUPUI as well as traveling to Washington, DC.

She said that Ivy Tech was hosting an informal networking session on the morning of July 12th, from 9-noon. She said the participants had requested information on women's issues, health care and the like. She asked if members of the commission would staff a table at that session to speak to the students. Jacqueline said she would try to rearrange her schedule to be there. Sue suggested that they contact Middle Way House and the Monroe County Women's Commission for representatives. Debby suggested they contact Penni Sims regarding the State of the Girls report information. Regina suggested that they contact Girl Scouts and Girls, Inc. as well.

**New Business-A. Liaison's Report**

Sue had nothing to report.

**New Business-B. Non-voting members**

Tabled

**New Business-C. Community Capacity for Prevention and Education**

Penny noted that Matt Clay who works with this program will present information about this initiative at our August meeting. He will bring one more co-worker with him.

In talking about upcoming meetings, Penny requested that the agenda include a discussion about preparations for a program for Equal Pay Day 2018.

**Community Input:** None

**Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 6:40 pm.

Regina Moore took these notes as Donna Goings was off on a wonderful vacation!