**Solano Commission for Women and Girls**

**May 19, 2022 6:00 PM**

The May 19, 2022 meeting of the Solano Commission for Women and Girls (SCWG) was held at the Solano County Event Center, 601 Texas Street - Fairfield, CA 94533.

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:09PM.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC/BOARD MEMBER**

Chair Thomas acknowledged the departure of two Commissioners: Sidonie Seltzer is graduating from high school and leaving SCWG. She was presented a Certificate of Recognition. Commissioner Gayle Vaughan was also presented by a Certificate of Recognition.

**Members Present:                         Executive Committee**

Mary Henderson Solano County, District 1

Jacqui Nguyen Solano County, District 5                           Secretary

Gayle Vaughan City of Benicia

Pat Nicodemus City of Dixon                                              Treasurer

Patricia Kohn City of Rio Vista Dr.

Tiffani Thomas City of Suisun                                            Co-Chair

Edith Thomas City of Vacaville                                         Chair

Sofia Cruz City of Vallejo

Andrea Lemos Solano County Office of Education Membership

Akon Walker Member at Large

Juliana Biggs Youth Member at Large

Sidonie Seltzer                     Youth Member at Large

**Absent**:

Ana Petero                          Solano County, District 2

Sullina Sanchez Solano County, District 3

Jennifer Hamilton  Solano County, District 4

Dr. Rechelle Nettles  City of Fairfield

Wendy Loomas Member at Large

**Guests:**

Dr. Kimberlee Staking Fairfield resident

**Public Comment**:

* Commissioner Seltzer made remarks that she is sad to leave early before her term is over but wanted to thank everyone for their service and leadership.
* Kudos were offered from a variety of Commissioners on the success of the Birth Justice event, including from guest Dr. Staking.
* Commissioner Vaughan thanked all the commissioners, past and present for their/our service and for all that has been accomplished over the past 4 years. She also shared that her replacement is being nominated at the upcoming Benicia City Council meeting.
* After two years under the pandemic, Commissioner/Dr. Thomas shared that she will walk this weekend at Brandman University to officially mark her completion of her PhD.

**1. Approval of Agenda** - Commissioner Vaughan made a motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Lemos seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**2. Approval of Previous Minutes -** Commissioner/Dr. Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Nicodemus made seconded. April’s minutes passed with Commissioner Lemos abstaining as she was absent.

**3. Treasurers Report-** Commissioner Nicodemus reported the balance of $1,739.40 increase of $.08.

* Chair Thomas shared that Valero is donating $5000 to support the Birth Justice Event, Angel Shot program, and the Period Project.
* Chair Thomas shared that Kaiser expects to offer a grant cycle in July and creates an opportunity to request funds for a future project.
* Chair Thomas also shared that WalMart is holding a grant cycle, creating yet another opportunity.

**4. Review of the 2nd Annual Birth Justice Event**- Birth Justice was successful with 41 attendees, with 58 RSVPs. Commissioner/Dr. Thomas will edit the 3 hours of recordings to create shorter, more concise u-tube videos. Acknowledgements were made to Commissioner Cruz and Commissioner Walker for their hard word producing the program. Commissioner/Dr. Thomas was recognized for her leadership, Commissioner Petero for her support of the doula program at Solano Community College, and Commissioner Henderson bringing the youth poet to share at the event.

**5. Work Group Updates**:

**a. Angel Shot Project** - Commissioner Biggs shared various items, including a list of 36 bars in Solano County, requesting that Commissioners review it to ensure accuracy. The ‘soft’ launch will begin as soon as the posters are available. Commissioners will break up the list based on the city/ area they represent. Teams are encouraged to connect with Police Chiefs to ensure there is awareness and support of the project. Talking Points are being developed to support those conversations.

**b. House-less/ Poverty Info** – Commissioner Nicodemus wants to encourage this work group to continue and set some goals. A candid conversation ensued regarding the increased deaths of youths due to fentanyl overdoses. There is legislation that helps homeless individuals, especially women, who are prone to be in a homeless situation. Three different areas: JPA, Curry’s legislation, Monday, May 23 from 2-4PM – The Solano Partnership Against Violence is hosting a Speed Networking event, will discuss about a new housing program.

* Chair Thomas noted a Violence Against Women program – Victims Empowerment Support Team (VEST) that works out of the Family Justice Center.

**6. SCWG Retreat update** - The 2022 retreat is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th at Pietro’s Restaurant #2 11am-2pm in a private room. Commissioners will purchase their own lunches. Commissioner Vaughan is planning the program to include chair yoga, founder Dr. Frances McCullough will offer the history of SCWG, and a trivia game of the bylaws. The newly appointed Commissioner for the City of Benicia expects to join us.

**7. SCWG Membership update/ Leadership job descriptions Commissioners -** Chair Thomas opened the discussion of recruitment for the next Executive Committee. Nominations for the Executive Committee will be made take place in September and the vote will occur the first month of the fiscal year, which is October. The newly voted in Executive Committee team will begin directly after the vote. The Past Chair position has not been filled in years gone by, and we hope to stay in compliance with this upcoming vote. Chair Thomas suggested creating an honorary commission that includes individuals who are interested in joining SCWG, to create a pipeline of possible women leaders to fill the at large positions as they become open. Commissioners Biggs and Walker suggested inviting friends to attend SCWG meetings, focusing on groups such as African American sororities.

Chair Thomas discussed a future vote on the position descriptions of the Executive Committee. Chair Lemos suggested making the position descriptions as a working document and Commissioner/Dr. Thomas agreed. Commissioner Kohn suggested a name change to Rules & Responsibilities of the Executive Committee, which would be a working document.

**8. Agenda Items for June 16th, 2022 -** Both Chair Thomas and Commissioner/Dr. Thomas shared that that plan to be absent for the June meeting. Commissioner Nicodemus will chair in their absence. Guest speaker, Roger Freeman with International Rescue Committee will share resources for human trafficking in Northern CA. The installment of the newly appointed City of Benicia Commissioner is planned for June. There was also a suggestion we recognize Juneteenth National Independence Day (celebrated on June 19th as a federal holiday.)

**9. Closing Space**

**10. Meeting adjourned at 7:42PM.**