**Solano Commission for Women and Girls**

**September 15, 2022 Minutes**

The September 15th, 2022 meeting of the Solano Commission for Women and Girls (SCWG) held at the Solano County Event Center, address 601 Texas Street - Fairfield, CA 94533.

Call to Order & Roll Call: 6:05PM

**Members Present:                         Executive Committee**

Mary Henderson Solano County, District 1

Ana Petero                          Solano County, District 2

Sullina Sanchez Solano County, District 3

Jennifer Hamilton  Solano County, District 4

Miki Paul City of Benicia

Pat Nicodemus City of Dixon                                              Treasurer

Rechelle Nettles  City of Fairfield

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

Akon Walker Member at Large

Andrea Lemos Solano County Office of Education Membership

**Absent**:

Jacqui Nguyen Solano County, District 5                           Secretary

Guests: Michelle Coleman (applicant), Rayshawda Madison (applicant), Juliette Diggs (TAFB), Tiffanee Jones (Office of Lori Wilson), Kimberlee Staking (volunteer), Helena Chung (volunteer), Caroline Lahti (Touro University) and Founder Dr. Frances McCullough

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC/BOARD MEMBER**

Commissioner Ana Petero discussed recent overturn Roe vs. Wade case and expressed that it be a topic of discussion by the commission emphasizing that abortion is a not a political issue but a health issue.

1. **Additions/ Deletions to the Agenda:** No Requests for additions nor deletions to September 2022 Agenda.

Approval of September 2022 Agenda: Commissioner Hamilton motioned, and Commissioner Nicodemus seconded to approve the agenda. Unanimous vote.

1. **Approval of the August 18th, 2022 SCWG Meeting Minutes:** Dr. Frances McCullough requested to correct August 18th, 2022 minutes under “comments.” Dr. McCullough is advocating for SCWG anniversary in 2023.

Commissioner Kohn motioned and Commissioner Paul seconded to approve the minutes. Unanimous vote/ Commissioners Cruz, Walker, Nettles and Henderson abstained.

1. **Treasurers Report:** Current balance is $1739.73, an increase of 9 cents. There is $1845.50 balance from the Valero grant.
2. **Closed Session: Vote for New Commissioner Candidates**

We received resignations from Commissioner Juliana Biggs (Youth Member at Large) and Commissioner Akon Walker (Adult Member at Large) who’s last meeting will be October 2022. The Membership Committee held interviews to fill the 4 open positions and 3 Commissioners were voted in by the Commission.

The decisions were reported out:

* Member at Large Youth - Bonica Gudeta
* Member at Large Adult – Rayshawnda Madison
* Member at Large Adult - Michelle Coleman (to begin November 2022)

One Member at Large Youth position remains open.

**5. Open Session: Work Group Discussions**:

a. Period Project – Caroline Lahti shared the completion of the period product drive this past summer with 160 care packages made and over $700 in donations with the assistance of other Touro University clubs for other supplies such as condoms. Products were passed off to the City of Fairfield office with the support of Commissioner Sanchez. Commissioner Sanchez shared that she met with Aditi (Touro AMWA member) and Caroline to collect packages and invited Caroline and Touro AMWA to attend CAP Solano meetings and work with them.

Caroline expressed interest in collaborating more with the Commission for future projects and asked if the Commission can make a goal to help fund period product distribution. Supplies such as shampoo, other hygiene products, underwear were needed but were unable to be supplied this year. Commissioner Hamilton and Shonda Madison shared future ideas for period drives such as creating an Amazon Registry/Wishlist. The Touro AMWA annual period product drive will be in the spring, and they will continue to reach out to the Commission for support.

b. Housing/ Poverty/ Homeless – They met on Monday, September 12 Commissioner Sanchez reported that they discussed period project update, marketing and promotion for services and resources for unhoused community. They want to update info for marketing on website. This group wants to work with the Legislative work group for future support.

c. Angel Shot Project –

Commissioner Kohn shared the status of her success in Rio Vista. Commissioner Nettles shared her success in Suisun City. Tiffanee Jones suggested posting on college campuses. As this is still in the pilot status, we will potentially expand to college campuses. Chair Thomas offered to have more posters made when the current stock is gone. Michelle Coleman volunteered to connect with bar owners in Vallejo to begin the program.

d. Women’s History Month/SCWG 5th Anniversary – They met Monday, September 12, as an initial planning meeting. The discussion included the option of combining events or creating various events. We agree to hold events in person. There were ideas including a weekly event at the various public libraries to showcase the commission and maybe highlight books written by women, about women. Another idea is to hold a luncheon to honor a Solano Woman of the Year and begin a Hall of Fame. Next planning meeting is Monday, September 26 at 6PM via Zoom.

e. Birth Justice - Commissioner/Dr. Thomas is looking forward to handing the project off after being the facilitator for the past 2 annual events. She shared an overview of the program. Commissioner Henderson volunteered to co-chair the workgroup and new Commissioner Rayshawnda Madison volunteered to co-chair.

4. Public Safety/Fentanyl/Opioid –Commissioner Nicodemus attended Senator Dodd’s town hall on the Fentanyl/Opiod crisis as well as the NARCAN training hosted by Touro University and DrugSafe Solano. She discussed finding ways to identify mental health services for this population. Overall goal is to destigmatize the topic and enforce partnership, focusing on advocates, education, and to show solidarity. A suggestion was made that maybe the Commission can create a way to discuss this and support Mothers facing this challenge. We discussed having a member from DrugSafe Solano present at a Commission meeting. Commissioner Nicodemus will send an email to everyone about their next meeting.

5. Legislative –Tiffanee Jones will send information on important legislation that is pertinent to the SCWG work. Commissioner Nicodemus discussed our previous work regarding the Momnibus Bill and is curious about Senator Rubio’s efforts regarding protection for pregnant women that work outdoors (following heat wave that just occurred). Commissioner Hamilton discussed state and legislative platforms that are divided by county departments for the Commission to follow. Commissioner Walker shared that the California Association for Women Realtors would be a good resource to help bridge a connection with women that need assistance. Commissioner Nicodemus, Commissioner Hamilton, and Commissioner Petero will organize workgroup meeting dates and announce through email.

**6. Executive Committee Nominations:** Nomination interested has been shared with Commissioners during meetings and emails. Commissioner Lemos accepted all nomination interest. The ballot will be put forward for voting in October. Terms for all positions are 1 year.

Nominations for Chair: Commissioner Dr. Tiffani Thomas, Commissioner Jennifer Hamilton, Commissioner Pat Nicodemus, Commissioner Andrea Lemos, and Chair Edie Thomas. Commissioners Dr. Thomas, Nicodemus, Lemos, and Chair Thomas declined the nomination. Commissioner Hamilton accepted the nomination.

Nominations for Vice-Chair: Commissioner Akon Walker, Commissioner Jacqui Nguyen, Commissioner Pat Nicodemus. Commissioners Walker and Nguyen declined the nomination. Commissioner Nicodemus accepted the nomination.

Nomination for Secretary: Commissioner Jacqui Nguyen. Commissioner Nguyen accepted the nomination.

Nomination for Treasurer: Commissioner Patty Kohn. Commissioner Kohn accepted the nomination.

The Membership Committee Chair is appointed by the Chair, as it is not currently a part of the Executive Committee. Commissioner Lemos has agreed to continue filling this roll for the Commission. She would like the support of a co-chair should someone be willing to show interest.

\*Next Month’s Ballot will include a place for write-ins and nominations from the floor. The Executive Committee position descriptions will be emailed again.

**7. Agenda Items for October 20, 2022 Meeting**

* Icebreaker exercise by Commissioner Petero
* Applicants for Youth Commissioner/ Vote for new Executive Committee
* Mentoring to support new members
* New location for October: Main glass building, 2nd floor, up the main stairs and to the right. 675 Texas Street, Rm 2065, Fairfield, CA
* October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and domestic violence awareness month, Commissioners wear pink and purple to next meeting
* Discuss Speakers of Drugs and their availability

**9. Closing Space:** Commissioner Walker shared a song, “Little Girl”: by Mary Mary

**Motion to Adjourn: 8:00PM.**