**Solano Commission for Women and Girls**

**Virtual Meeting**

**December 17th, 2020**

**5:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Petty called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present**

Olivia Ruiz Solano County, District 1

Sabine Goerke-Shrode Solano County, District 3

Jennifer Hamilton Solano County, District 4

Laura Petty Solano County, District 5

Gayle Vaughan City of Benicia

Kay Kelley ( late) City of Rio Vista

Elease Cheek City of Vallejo

Pat Nicodemus City of Dixon

Edith Thomas City of Vacaville

Tiffani Thomas City of Suisun

Dr. Andrea Lemos Solano County Office of Education

Sakina Ali SCWG Youth Appointment

Akon Walker Member at Large

Doriss Panduro Member at Large

**Members Absent (3)**

Ana Petero Solano County, District 2

Dr. Rechelle Nettles City of Fairfield

Jala Carter Youth Member

**Staff, Speakers, and Guests Present/Announcements**

Shannon Carter, here for Equity Training

Carla Gregory (teacher)

Mary Henderson

Kathleen Wilde

Tamuri Richardson

Phyllis Gordon (long time Contra Costa Commission member, instrumental in formation)

Francis McCullough (founder)

Lily Ploski

Anika Johnson (Presenter)

Shannon Carter (Presenter)

Jennifer Artz

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC/BOARD MEMBER**

Chair Petty shared an inspirational letter about taking a break from hard work for some fun at the holidays.

1. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: Commissioner Vaughan moved and Commissioner Ruiz seconded that the agenda be approved with no additions or deletions.
2. Approval of the Nov. 19th 2020 SCWG Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Tiffani Thomas moved and Commissioner Hamilton seconded that the minutes be approved. Approved by unanimous vote.

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. *Consideration of Removal of Commissioner with Excessive Absences*

Commissioner Kelly previously recommended to the Executive Board that Youth Commissioner Carter be removed from the Commission for lack of attendance. Because Commissioner Carter has missed 4 months of meetings and has not responded to multiple emails and phone calls inquiring about her, the Executive Board voted unanimously to bring this recommendation to the full Commission. Commissioner Kelly sent a certified letter informing her about this proposed action, with no response.

Commissioner Hamilton moved that we remove Commissioner Carter for excessive absences. Commissioner Vaughan seconded.

Discussion was held about these absences, lack of response or communication from Commissioner Carter, bylaws requirements, and the fact that there are several other people who are interested in taking her place.

The motion passed with Commissioners Walker and Lemos abstaining. Commissioner Kelly will notify Commissioner Carter and begin the process for recruiting a replacement youth commissioner.

1. *Announcement of Planning Meetings- Women in Leadership Series*

Planning meetings will be held on Saturday at 10am on Dec. 19 and 26. All are welcome to attend. We hope to offer a Women in Leadership Series in March (Women’s History Month), probably on Thursdays. If Commissioners have names of women in leadership positions (government, business, education, non-profits) please give them to Chair Petty for consideration.

1. *Work Group Encouragement from Vice-Chair Hamilton*

Commissioner Hamilton spoke, encouraging groups to meet, and offered help from the Executive Board and full Commission. She wants to make sure teams feel supported and are meeting even it’s only by email.

She reminded us that every January we will assess the areas we want to focus on. We will need to decide if we want to keep the topics we have or if there are others we want to review.

The Poverty and Food Insecurity working groups have been meeting and offered written summaries of their progress. They are sharing resource information.

Commissioner Walker spoke about the working group on Maternal Health and Black Infant Mortality. The group met yesterday and discussed a documentary “Death by Delivery” about Black infant death rates and maternal health outcomes. They got some ideas about partnering with places like Solano Heals and First Five, having speakers like Mary Dickey from neonatal ICU at North Bay Medical Center, and considering proposing that nursing programs bring in doulas into their modules, and teach equity in health care. African-American women are dying at an alarming rate in our county because of disparities in health care. The work team will be listening again to the presentation made to the Commission by Dr. Fuller and Dr. Anderson from Solano Public Health to gather more specific data. Commissioner Nicodemus hinted that something “big” would be happening in May.

1. *Comments from Phyllis Gordon, Vice-*President of the Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW).

Chair Petty invited guest Phyllis Gordon to speak about her work with the Association of California Commissions for Women. The group includes most but not all of the Commissions for Women within the state. They were hoping to have a statewide convening, but are still working out the possibility of a virtual meeting maybe in February. She would at least like to meet virtually with all the Commissions in North California.

Ms. Gordon went on to explain another important project. After meeting with the Contra Costa Director of Housing and Homelessness, the Contra Costa Commission for Women and Girls decided to partner with Soroptimists on a project to create packets of underwear and feminine products for homeless women. The highest arrest rate for these women has to do with them stealing feminine hygiene products. On another note, Commissioner Gordon has been networking with Marin County and the Sacramento County Commission for Women and Girls was just approved by the State Commission.

Chair Petty asked Commissioner Gordon about fundraising. She explained about their biggest fundraiser which has been their “Hall of Fame”. They have been the only group in Contra Costa County to honor women in several different categories and they do it every other year. They make money through sponsorships, raffle, and tickets for the event. They also offer a seminar series in collaboration with JFK University where they charge $10 a ticket. They have had speakers on Women in Leadership, Women in Alternative Occupations, and Women in Power.

Commissioner Gordon suggested that we consider sending a commissioner to the National Convention in Leesburg,Virginia this July 22, 2021. It will be available both in person and via zoom.

Commissioner Kelly joined our group, and Commissioner Panduro apologized for having to leave early.

1. *Future Agenda Items*

January: Commissioner Ali suggested we add planning for our February retreat to our January meeting.Chair Petty volunteered to work with Commissioner Ali and asked others to contact Commissioner Ali directly to sign up to help with the planning.

February: Commissioner Vaughan suggested that we discuss the idea of a Master Calendar in February.

1. *Advancing Racial Equity Training*

Commissioner Walker introduced the Community Action Team for Equity Trainers: Anika Johnson, who works on the Equity and Inclusion Team at the Solano County Library and Shannon Carter, Health and Social Services Manager in Staff Development and Training.

The presenters introduced the topic of Racial Equity by discussing examples of inequities, which was followed by a video, “ The House We Live In”, and a series of questions for the participants to answer and discuss together. We will continue Part 2 of our training at our next Commission Meeting.

Our next meeting is on Jan. 21 at 5:30 with another Equity Training beginning at 6pm

Chair Petty Adjourned the meeting at 8:03.