



Solano Commission  
For Women And Girls

**Minutes**

Virtual Meeting  
June 17, 2021 6:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Commission Chair Petty called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present**

Ana Petero	Solano County, District 2
Sabine Goerke-Shrode	Solano County, District 3
Jennifer Hamilton	Solano County, District 4
Laura Petty	Solano County, District 5
Gayle Vaughan	City of Benicia
Pat Nicodemus	City of Dixon
Dr. Rechelle Nettles	City of Fairfield
Kay Kelley	City of Rio Vista
Tiffani Thomas	City of Suisun
Edith Thomas	City of Vacaville
Eleese Cheek	City of Vallejo
Doriss Panduro	Member at Large
Akon Walker	Member at Large
Sakina Ali	Youth Member at Large
Juliana Biggs	Youth Member at Large

**Members Absent**

Oliva Ruiz	Solano County, District 1
Andrea Lemos	Solano County Office of Education

**Visitors**

Jennifer Artz ( Homeless advocate)  
Mary Henderson (Former nurse, active on the Maternity & Infant Health team)  
Sidone Seltzer: (High schooler who is interested in the Commission's work)  
Kourtney Yamada (Website intern)  
N'dea Johnson, Ma. (Guest of Anna Petero)  
Dr. Frances McCollough (Founding Member)

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC/BOARD MEMBER**

Commissioner Nicodemus had questions about some legislation we could possibly support. Discussion was held about timing and the best way to proceed.

1. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda, Approval of the Agenda

Emergency addition to the Agenda: Discussion of California Omnibus Bill Senate Bill 65 as the Senate may for vote on this before we meet in August. Commissioner Nicodemus moved, Commissioner Vaughan seconded that the addition be made to the agenda. Unanimously approved.

2. Approval of the May 20, 2021 SCWG Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Cheek moved and Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Unanimously approved.

## REGULAR CALENDAR

### 1. *Website Update:*

Chair Petty welcomed our intern, Kourtney Yamada to give us an update on her work on the Website. She is a student at UC Irvine and became an intern for us under Past Commissioner Rochelle Sherlock last year. Ms. Yamada took us through the various of pages on the website explaining recent changes. She also explained payment options for our Wik site, and paying for our domain site, which is on a three year cycle.

Commission members offered very positive comments and suggested some possible changes including adding photos of women over 50 to be more inclusive.

Chair Petty reached out to Commissioners to help with upkeep and maintenance of the website. Some are currently being trained to do so.

Commissioner Vaughan volunteered to check the gmail account associated with the website. She will meet with Ms. Yamada to receive instructions on how to do that through the Google page and will roll over the account to Commissioner Vaughan's email.

Commissioner Biggs volunteered to work with Ms. Yamada to create a template plate for adding info to website for each work team within the next couple of weeks. Commissioner Biggs will be the contact if your work team wants to add something after Ms. Yamada leaves.

Commissioner Walker asked a question about the Wix page having an email with it. It's something we can check into later.

Chair Petty discussed getting information and photos on line about the recent May Birth Justice events. Commissioner Tiffani Thomas is waiting for approval from the moms to use their photos. Commissioners Petty and Tiffani Thomas will conference about it later.

Commissioner Kelley and Founder Francis McCullough asked whether we need a Media Consent Form. Commissioner Kelley has a template. Discussion concluded that such a form is needed and that Commissioner Kelley will send the template to Commissioner Tiffani Thomas.

### 2. *Period Product Project with Touro University's AMWA*

Chair Petty introduced Jennifer Artz, from Vacaville Services Corporation where she is program manager My Friend's House working with homeless and teens. She has been spearheading our Period Product Project teams going out to distribute the items that were collected. Ms. Artz described recent events: We had a good first meeting to put together all the products into packages. We had a couple of guys there and we even burst out into singing at one point. Our first outreach was a Night Strike in Fairfield. Another was an individual homeless outreach in Vacaville to folks who live on the street and then one into an encampment in Fairfield. We will be getting together on July 2<sup>nd</sup> to put more products together

The next event coming up is Homeless Event for families in Fairfield, July 7 at Allan Witt Park. Commissioners Hamilton and Nettles signed up to help with tabling at the event. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Commissioner Cheek was clarifying that distribution is happening in Vallejo, wants to help with packaging and has student volunteers to help with collecting. Ms. Artz wants to start an underwear drive as well.

Chair Petty reported on the large numbers of supplies we have left and money that has been donated but not yet spent. Discussion was held about materials still needed. Ms. Artz and

Commissioner Nicodemus will continue to distribute to the homeless camps. She hasn't heard back yet about how well received the packets were.

### 3. *Update on Amendments to Bylaws*

Commissioner Hamilton reported that she was not able to get the bylaw changes on the BOS agenda yet. Chair Petty reviewed the proposed bylaw changes that were submitted in February which would increase the number of Commissioners, adding more youth commissioners. It would also change the authority for appointing new Commissioners from the Mayor and City Officials to the Commission and the start date of new Commissioners from October to January. Since this hasn't progressed as expected we need to be prepared to get new Commissioners on board by this October.

Discussion ensued about why it hasn't moved forward and how we can get it in from of the BOS either on an agenda or as part of the consent calendar. Chair Petty noted that the BOS has lots of more important things on their desk including the ever-changing Covid-19 situation. Commissioner Hamilton had been told by the PIO that the bylaws didn't need to be approved, but that might not be the case. She explained that she hadn't been able to get a clear answer to that question, but that we might get one after the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Kelley wants something in writing stating we don't need board approval for bylaw changes. Commissioner Petero asked how Supervisors appoint new Commissioners. BOS has to put appointments they make on the agenda.

### 4. *Membership Recruitment and Retention/Nomination Committee Report*

Commissioner Kelley has contacted all those whose terms are up so we have an idea about who plans to run again and who to replace. However, we need to know how to proceed. We need to know whether new people will be starting in October or January to know how to proceed. Commissioner Kelley will contact everyone who may need to leave and also contacting people to be on the nominating committee. Chair Petty suggested that we proceed under our old bylaws and that we need to start with the Nominating Committee in August.

Commissioner Kelley will make a list of all the positions that will be termed out and who will need replacement.

Commissioner Nettles had some questions about how many youth members we needed and how they were selected. There are currently two and both need to be renewed or replaced. The youth members do not need to be students, but need to be between by 16-24 years of age. Chair Petty encouraged youth members in the audience to apply to the Commission. Commissioner Petty asked Commissioners to find your own replacement, make sure they are committed and willing to work, and then convince the BOS to appoint that person.

### 5. *Treasurer's Financial Report*

Commissioner Ali reports that she received the financial report and our current balance is \$1998.85. No new items were processed since our last Financial report. Looking ahead, we are committed to paying up Ms. Yamada up to \$500 for all her work on the website, that the website domain will need to be paid in February, 2022. and later we will need to pay \$200 for the WIX site domain.

### 6. *National Association of Commissions for Women Membership*

Chair Petty reported that she has donated the \$75 fee to join and we are now a member! The Commission will need to decide if we want to spend some of our limited income on to be members next year. We are all invited to the annual convention.

## 7. Association of California Commission for Women (ACCW) update from May 22 Bootcamp

In reporting back about attending the Bootcamp webinar, Commissioner Hamilton stated that it was well-organized and provided lots of information about legislation and state government department that is working on the status of women. She spoke to the ACCW about our Status Report, because not many in the Association have done that. She explained why we did it, (one of our initial charges from our founders), how we did data collection with research, speakers, and panels, how we hired a consultant to put it all together; and then how we used the report to set up our work teams and are now addressing issues from the report.

## 8. Working Group Reports:

-Poverty, Homelessness, and Food Insecurity Group (PHFI): Commissioner Edith Thomas reported that the group met in June and is working on developing resource information for the website by city and category of services. Commissioner Vaughan volunteered that she had sent a partial list of resources to Ms. Yamada for the website.

They will continue that at the next meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Nettles suggested that the group might want to bring in a realtor to talk to our work group about housing challenges and the market in Fairfield at our August meeting. Commissioner Nicodemus was going to contact a couple of experts on the subject about speaking to us as well.

-Violence against Women and Girls: Commissioner Biggs reported out about recent speakers they have had from SafeQuest and the Solano County Family Justice Center talking about what is available and what is needed. Availability of services and financial support for them seem to be waning since the pandemic started. We have developed the beginnings of a resource list by city, but are missing information from several cities in the eastern portion of the county. No meeting has been scheduled for July.

- Maternal and Infant Health Discrepancies: Commissioner Walker asked for help and support for the Commission for Sexually Exploited Children. Chair Petty asked if Commissioner Walker would go to one of their meetings and find out what kind of services they provide and what they need. Maternal and Infant Health group is meeting, has had some excellent speakers, and is developing some plans. Their next meeting is July 12.

### *-Announcements and activities:*

Commissioner Cheek: President Biden has just signed a bill making Juneteenth a National Holiday.

Commissioner Vaughan: The Camel Barn and Benicia Black Lives Matter will be hosting a Juneteenth celebration with new exhibits, food, and music.

Dr. McCollough thanked everyone for our hard work, and then asked about fundraising.

Commissioner Kelley responded by giving a short report about the Friends of the Commission for fundraising: She is looking for the phone numbers and addresses of the founding members so she can get them involved with the project. She is examining bylaws of other 503c groups. She is checking with Phyllis Gordon from Contra Costa Commission on Women and Girls. Commissioners Petty, Hamilton and Goerke-Shrode have agreed to serve on the committee to get this thing off the ground. This group needs a wish list from the Commission: What do we need money for? Think BIG!! First step is to put together a board and a strategic plan to put together for the Attorney General's Office. That's happening now.

Commissioner Panduro: Asked if the Commission would partner with Suisun City tabling at Suisun City Community Resource Fair event next weekend at the Joseph Nelson Community Center. Commissioner Petero volunteered to bring a table and talk about the benefits of doulas and the Omnibus bill. Commissioner Panduro will create and set up a trifold display about the

Commission. Commissioner Vaughan asked if people going to the event could bring back resource information from Suisun City as we don't have any yet for the resource lists.

Commissioner Vaughan will be putting up a display case about the Commission at the Fairfield Branch of the Solano County Library during the month of August.

Dr. McCollough asked if people could still make donations to the Commission through Music for Our Children. Chair Petty explained how to do that.

Commissioner Nicodemus wanted to make sure all the women leaders were "captured" on our website. Commissioner Kelley has someone to add to the list also.

9. *Emergency Agenda Item: Letter for State Senate Omnibus Bill 65:* Pat Nicodemus

We have been talking about this awhile now, especially at the recent Birth Justice events. The Omnibus bill would provide all kinds of services to women and girls in need of support. It passed the Senate May 24 and is currently in the Assembly Health Committee which will have a hearing on June 22. Commissioner Hamilton also reported that this is an important bill for women and has a big cost that the Governor has added into his budget. The next hearing will be in Sept. Reviewing the county legislative platform revealed that the Commission would be consistent with the legislative stance of the BOS, so it would be okay to write a letter of support. It would be important to have an event to educate women about advocating for themselves around maternity and birth. Chair Petty suggested that Devon Crawford (from the Maternity and Infant Health work team), along with Commissioners Hamilton and Nicodemus draft a letter in support of the bill for the Commission to review and sign at the August meeting. Commissioner Nicodemus and agreed to lead that effort with Commission Hamilton and Ms. Crawford.

10. Items for August 2021 Meeting

Commissioner Hamilton is working on developing a Live/Hybrid meeting for August in the county mission building for in our regular meeting place to make sure we have a strong working Wi-Fi. The County is moving toward having in person/live meeting unless the Covid rate climbs significantly.

**8:00 p.m. ADJOURN**