

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
3482 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, California

July 17, 1982

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Yvonne Bodle, Co-Chair
Virginia Connell, Co-Chair
Erin Sheffield
Sandra Smith Ryder
Lauren Anderson
Lupe Gonsalves
JoAnne Moore
Brook Hubbell
Mary Jane Johns
Ida Richardson
Carol Keochekian
Tila Estrada

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Dorothy Engel
Stephen Wiman
Mary Baird

GUESTS

Debbie Hollenbeck
(Breakthrough)
Gloria Kendrick
(Coalition Against
Household Violence)

CALL TO ORDER

The July meeting of the Ventura County Commission for Women was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Co-Chair Virginia Connell. The meeting was held at the Camarillo Public Library, 3100 Ponderosa Drive, Camarillo. Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 19 meeting of the Commission were reviewed. There was one correction on page four, under the heading "Nominating Committee." Mary Jane Johns should not have appeared on the Nominating Committee. The minutes were approved as corrected.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Incoming and outgoing correspondence was as follows:

1. A letter was received from Headstart, indicating their desire to help sponsor the newsletter, forwarding their contribution of \$25.
2. A letter was received from the State Commission on the Status of Women informing us about their budget approval for the 1982-83 fiscal year.

3. We sent a letter to Richard, Wittenberg Ventura County's Chief Administrative Officer, asking for revenue sharing funds for the Child Care Project Committee.
4. A letter was sent to the Tulare County Commission on the Status of Women, telling them of our progress to date. This letter was in answer to a previous letter from them, welcoming us as a new Commission.
5. We sent a letter to the Ventura County Women's Employment and Education, giving our support to their funding application for the next fiscal year.
6. We sent a letter to the Star-Free Press, congratulating the women who ran in the CAAN/Heart Association 26-mile marathon.
7. Letters were sent to the mayors of Ventura and Oxnard, requesting support for the funding of a shelter for battered women on the west end of Ventura County under the auspices of the Coalition Against Household Violence.
8. Letters were sent to the appropriate legislators regarding the funding of the State Commission on the Status of Women for the 1982-83 fiscal year.

Yvonne Bodle also indicated that she had received a call from Nell Langford of the Women's Networking in California, announcing a conference to be held by their organization in Pismo beach on Saturday, July 17.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Erin Sheffield reported that as of June 30, 1982, the Commission had spent 71% of the Salaries Account, 137% of Supplies and Services, and 86% of the total budget for the year.

Sheffield received a memo from Barbara Fitzgerald of PSSA Fiscal, indicating that the Chief Administrative Office has not recommended funding for the Commission for Women for the next fiscal year. The Commission will be a policy item to be brought before the Board of Supervisors for consideration during the Budget Hearings starting on August 2, 1982. Virginia Connell suggested that the Commissioners should try to be present during this Budget Hearing to defend our position as a Commission should that become necessary. Connell said this process is not an unusual one, however, the way in which the Commission was notified of this position was very inappropriate. Having our supplies cut off and not being able to spend any money until the Budget Hearings are finalized during the first week of August has slowed down the Commission's work.

Connell pointed out that on July 13 the Board of Supervisors supported the Commission's sponsorship of Women's History Week throughout Ventura County.

Sheffield read the report from PSSA indicating the need for a 1982-83 budget justification for presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Ida Richardson suggested that all three Commissioners from each district meet with their Supervisor about future funding.

COALITION AGAINST HOUSEHOLD VIOLENCE

Gloria Kendrick of the Coalition Against Household Violence reported on the shelter for battered women being set up on the west end of Ventura County. Another house has been located and will be in escrow until the end of August. They are giving the neighbors a positive outlook on the shelter being in their neighborhood, and it looks as though some of the problems are working out. On Tuesday, August 10, there will be a hearing with the City Planning Commission regarding the obtaining of a conditional use permit. The Coalition needs support in the form of letters and people present at the meeting with the Planning Commission.

The Coalition's goal is to help women who need temporary shelter, but also to encourage these women to find employment and be independent. If the shelter's conditional use permit is approved, funding will be forthcoming from United Way.

The Coalition's new director is Marian Newbury of Santa Barbara. Lupe Gonsalves and JoAnne Moore attended the Coalition's Open House on Sunday, July 11, at the site of the new shelter. They were impressed with the house and thought it would serve the Coalition's purpose adequately. Kendrick indicated that the shelter will be collecting clothing, food and other contributions for the shelter. These can be given to individual Coalition members until the new shelter opens.

Moore moved that the Commission write a letter to the City Planning Commission, supporting the new shelter. Motion carried.

Moore also said she would be present at that Planning Commission meeting to represent the Commission, if they so desire. Motion made, seconded and passed to that effect.

CHILD CARE PROJECT COMMITTEE

Carol Keochekian reported on the progress of the Child Care Project Committee in place of vacationing Dorothy Engel. The various sub-committees will be working on the following:

1. A survey letter has been prepared which will be available to private industry to help assess child care needs of employers.
2. Members of the Committee are meeting with a large industry in the County next week (at the industry's request) to discuss child care options.

3. A flyer has been drafted to distribute to private industries, informing them of the assets of employer-sponsored child care during September ("Quality Child Care Month").
4. A time line plan has been drawn up to guarantee that all work is done on time.
5. The Publicity Sub-committee, headed by Sandra Ryder, is setting up a media blitz, a press packet, for "Quality Child Care Month."
6. A resolution is being drafted to present to the Board of Supervisors declaring September "Quality Child Care Month."
7. Committee representatives will address Employers Advisory Council next Wednesday on child care in regard to private industry.

Keochekian reported that Amplica and State Farm have shown an interest in the Conference the Committee is trying to set up for the spring of 1983. Also, the Private Industry Council has committed itself for \$1,000 to help print flyers, etc.

As an item of interest, Keochekian said the News Chronicle is doing an article on the Commission for Women. Gonsalves suggested that information on the Child Care Project be sent to Katherine Walch of Conejo Magazine because she may be interested in writing an article on the Commission's work. Keochekian said it would be good to give them the information about "Quality Child Care Month." Bodle reported that the Oxnard Press-Courier has contacted her about a feature article on the Commission for Women, also.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair Sandra Ryder reported that the newsletter is ready to go to the printer, and it will be less expensive this time. It will be set up by the County's Word Processing Center and then printed through a private company. Ryder said the newsletter should be self-supporting through contributions and sponsorships. The Commission needs to work harder at soliciting sponsorships from women's organizations throughout the County.

Connell opened up a discussion on setting a standard for printing expenses incurred by future editions of the newsletter. Various Commissioners made comments on what they felt about the newsletter printing. JoAnne Moore is more concerned about the content of the newsletter rather than its appearance.

More will be discussed about expenses for the newsletter at a future meeting of the Commission.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

Connell appeared before the Board of Supervisors on July 13 about Women's History Week. They approved the Commission's request to act as the sponsor for those activities in Ventura County. Also, Connell presented SB 1835 (equal pay for equal work) and AB 3370 (leave of absence for birth or adoption of child) to the Board, asking that they allow the Commission to support these issues. Approval was granted for SB 1835, but AB 3370 had died in the legislature before any action could be taken.

AB 3693 (child support process) and AB 2994 (child abuse and neglect programs) will be supported through County Analyst Blake Boyle in his report to the Board. A letter has been sent to him from the Commission so he can include our support in his report.

Connell reported that she discussed with Supervisor Erickson the whole process of presenting support for legislation before the Board of Supervisors. Erickson recommended sending letters to each Supervisor giving the Commission's support on a particular bill, instead of always making a public presentation. Other methods of support were also discussed. Moore suggested being very selective with legislation brought before the Board, especially being careful to present issues dealing with child care. Connell said the Commission needs to deal with discrimination issues as well. Gonsalves suggested asking Engel to present bills on child care issues instead of Connell doing it.

Keochekian brought up the question: When writing the Supervisor instead of making public appearances before the Board, will there be action taken on these bills? It was the consensus of the group to observe this new procedure in order to gauge its effectiveness.

Bodle suggested inviting Supervisor Erickson to the next meeting to address some current issues of concern to the Commission. This suggestion will be considered.

New legislation under consideration:

AB 3133: Educational code regarding discrimination, brought up to Title IX standards. This bill is supported by women's lobbying organizations in Sacramento. It was moved, seconded and passed (with one abstention) to support this bill.

Bodle suggested using the word "gender" instead of "sex" when describing discrimination. She also said a copy of this bill and a letter urging support should be sent to the Ventura College District Advisory Committee on the Status of Women.

AB 3714: This bill amends the insurance code regarding conversion benefits and will now cover dependent spouses and children in the event of death or divorce. It was moved, seconded and passed to support this bill.

Two additional bills will be considered in September:

1. SB 1664 (Watson)
2. SB 1802 (Garamendi)

Copies of these bills were passed out to Commissioners for future consideration by the Legislative Analysis Committee.

AWARDS AND INSTALLATION COMMITTEE

Gonsalves spoke about the menu selection for the Awards Dinner to be held on September 23 at the Lobster Trap Restaurant in Oxnard. Gonsalves read off menu items available and the Commissioners discussed the selection and decided on turkey as the main course.

Gonsalves said cocktails will be served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and dinner will be from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and the awards will be given after that. The press will be invited. Reservations need to be made by September 13.

Ryder said she can obtain award placques for the dinner. She will also do personal invitations to the Board of Supervisors and other guests.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, said Gonsalves, is recommending the same slate of officers for 1982-83 with the only change coming from the split of the Executive Secretary's position: Sandra Ryder is recommended for the title of Newsletter Editor and Lauren Anderson is to assume the rest of the Executive Secretary's duties of correspondence and press releases. Nominations will be closed in August. New officers will be selected and installed at the September meeting.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT TASK FORCE

A meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss sexual harassment/discrimination with Janice Harper of Rape Crisis. More information will be forthcoming at the next Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Connell reported that the State Commission sent us a letter and report on Women In Poverty dated June 15, 1982. She wants every Commissioner to have a copy of that report so it can be discussed at a future meeting of the Commission. It was suggested that it be considered at the September meeting.

It was announced that Lauren Anderson was selected as a member of the Ventura County Community College District Advisory Committee on the Status of Women. Congratulations were extended to Anderson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A representative from Breakthrough announced that a conference on Risk Taking would be held on August 12 in Camarillo. She passed out brochures describing the conference and also future workshops.

The Commission will not schedule a meeting for the month of August because the majority of the Commissioners will be on vacation during that month. The next meeting will be on Saturday, September 11, at the Camarillo Public Library from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly French

BEVERLY FRENCH
Staff Secretary