

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
3161 Loma Vista Road  
Ventura, California

June 4, 1983

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Yvonne Bodle, Co-Chair  
Virginia Connell, Co-Chair  
Lauren Anderson  
Mary Baird  
✓ Dorothy Engel  
Lupe Gonsalves  
Brook Hubbell  
Mary Jane Johns  
Carol Keochekian  
JoAnne Moore  
Erin Sheffield

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Tila Estrada  
Ida Richardson  
Sandy Ryder  
Steve Wiman

The meeting was held at the Camarillo Public Library, 3200 Pondersosa Road, Camarillo, and called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Yvonne Bodle.

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTES

April 15, 1983 Minutes: Dorothy Engel moved the approval of the minutes and Jane Johns seconded. JoAnne Moore questioned the budget percentage on page one which Erin Sheffield corrected to 61%. Steve Wiman's travel was approved. Motion carried.

March 19, 1983 Minutes: JoAnne Moore moved the approval of the minutes. Lauren Anderson seconded the motion. A correction was made in the Treasurer's Report on page one to read "there is no extra money left beyond projected maintenance levels" vice "there is no money left." A further correction was made in the spelling of Barbara Lubeck's name on page two. These minutes were approved.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Commission has sent out the following items of correspondence:

1. A letter to the State Department of Education in support of Child Development Resources and Community Development Resources of Ventura County, Incorporated, from Dorothy Engel and Virginia Connell.

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2. A letter to Susan Foster looking forward to seeing her at the Child Care Symposium.
3. A letter to Vince Ordoñez to confirm his speaking at the June 4 meeting of the Commission from Lupe Gonsalves.

The Commission has received the following items:

1. A notice from the Center for Public Advocacy Research stating that a report entitled "Encouraging Employer Support to Working Parents" is available at \$9 per copy, plus \$2 for first class mailing.
2. A notice from Nu Era Printing that they are upgrading their equipment and that as a consequence their prices will be going up.
3. A letter to Lupe Gonsalves from The Rose Institute of State and Local Government inviting her to a conference entitled "Hispanic Women in California Politics" to be hosted by the Latino Studies Project of the Rose Institute.
4. A notice of the Conference on Child Sexual Abuse from the office of Criminal Justice Planning.
5. A letter to Carol Keochekian from Kathleen A. Murray, thanking Carol for the invitation to speak at the Child Care Symposium.
6. A report from the U.S. Department of Labor entitled: "Employment in Perspective: Minority Workers".
7. A response to a letter sent by Virginia Connell to Jack O'Connell stating that Gloria Molena cancelled her visit to this area this summer and that they would reschedule.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Erin Sheffield reported that as of the latest budget print-out on April 29, 84% of the fiscal year has elapsed with 70% of the budget spent. The Commission received a \$50 honorarium from the Ventura County Professional Women's Network. They will be listed as a sponsor for the Newsletter.

The 1983-84 budget will be treated as a policy item by the Board of Supervisors per Clint Tatum, Administrative Aide.

It was moved by Virginia Connell and seconded by Carol Keochekian that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion carried.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Care Committee:

Dorothy Engel said she feels the need to have a Child Care Committee meeting to decide what direction they will take in the next year.

Carol Keochekian said that they were appropriated \$2500 "seed" money by the Board of Supervisors to generate an account for operating expenses in setting up the Child Care Symposium, to be paid back. The expenses were \$2123.26. The proceeds were \$3045. \$500 is to be set aside for the printing and mailing of the synopsis of the Symposium. It was mentioned that the Public Social Services staff were very cooperative in their support of the Symposium. Carol moved and Brook Hubbell seconded the request to earmark \$500 for the Child Care Synopsis. Motion carried. \$196.51 remains in the bulk mailing account.

Carol was very pleased with the Symposium as a whole. Paid attendance equaled 101, but there were probably 120-125 people present including the speakers and the press people. At the final meeting of the Committee, all said they had heard nothing but good remarks. Representatives of five newspapers were present. Supervisors Maggie Erickson and Ed Jones welcomed the participants.

Carol said that she would send letters of appreciation to the speakers. It was decided that the Commission as a body should send one, as well.

The general concensus of the Symposium was that it was highly professional and well done.

Dorothy Engel said that Maggie Erickson presented a motion to the Board of Supervisors for a "needs assessment for child care" to benefit County employees. Virginia Connell offered the Commission's support and assistance. We will hear from Clint Tatum on this.

Yvonne advocated that in the future, Commissioners and committee members only be asked to pay for their lunch and that conference fees be waived. She said that Commissioners and committee members donated many hours and should not be treated as conferees. Carol said that Central Fiscal had ruled that everyone there had to pay the \$30 fee. The reason was that the \$2500 loan had to be paid back and that attendance was uncertain. Yvonne

suggested that in the future we have a policy that Commission members are present in a service position and only pay their lunch costs.

Brook Hubbell mentioned that the Community Advocates for Quality Child Care would like to use the KISS brochure. It was decided that a letter be sent stating the need for a reprinting of the brochure and that costs would be determined and announced as soon as this information was available. It was also mentioned that a letter be included to state credit for the Commission and that the last page of the brochure not be removed.

Brook also showed the book and overhead projections that have been prepared for presentations in other areas and mentioned the work that has been involved in developing these things. It was mentioned that the Commission should inform the County that they have received several requests from other Commissions for presentations.

it was stated that we may be ahead of anyone else in the State and perhaps the Country in child care expertise. It was decided to design a brochure to send out to show our readiness and availability.

#### Legislative Analysis Committee:

Ginny Connell commented that the volume of Federal and State legislation affecting women is very great. First of all, she encouraged commissioners to support the Education Bill which has been put together by both houses of the California Legislature by urging the Governor to sign it.

#### Federal Level:

1. Senate Joint Resolution 3 (S.J. Res. 3) - a constitutional amendment proposed by Senator Hatch, which states that "the right to abortion is not secured by this constitution". The Commission received a letter from California Assemblyman Art Agnos recommending opposition to this bill. All who support a woman's right to choice and personal privacy should let Senators Cranston and Wilson know of their opposition to this bill. The address is:

Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Action is needed immediately.

2. HR 100 - forbids discrimination in insurance based on sex. This bill is part of the Economic Equity Act; and covers such areas as life, disability, auto, and medical insurance, annuities, pensions, and taxes. Insurance companies have the technology available to base rates on life



style, health, driving record, etc., rather than gender.  
Contact Rep. Lagomarsino or Fielder at:

House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

State Level:

1. SB 1226 - also a bill forbidding discrimination in insurance based on sex. Deserves support.
2. ACR 37 - Assembly Concurrent Resolution #37 on sex discrimination. Calls on the State Commission on the Status of Women to annually report to the Legislature its findings and recommendations regarding pay inequities for women workers in the public and private sector. The specific focus of the report is equal pay for work of comparable worth. Jack O'Connell is co-author. Contact Tom McClintock or Cathie Wright to support.
3. AJR 18 -Assembly Joint Resolution #18. Memorializes the President and Congress of the U.S. to repeal changes made by the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 which reduce the incentive for mothers who are covered by the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program to work. Contact O'Connell, McClintock or Wright to support.
4. AB 2091 - Insurance Conversion Bill. This bill insures a reasonable opportunity for the person losing group medical insurance because of retirement before age 65, widowhood, divorce, or job loss to have access to a conversion policy with the same benefits and premiums of the former group medical plan, with a 90-day option period. Contact all local assembly persons and Senators to support.
5. SB 1093 - Child support. Senator Gary Hart has asked for and deserves our support for this bill which he has authored regarding the collection of child support payments. It will be heard in the Senate Finance Committee June 13.
5. Workfare - Two bills carry Governor Deukmejian's welfare reform package - AB 861 and SB 962. These should be opposed.  
Senator Diane Watson reported to the State Commission on the Status of Women that she is working on a substitute welfare reform bill.

PROGRAM

Vince Ordoñez of El Concilio Del Condado De Ventura presented a talk on his organization. El Concilio is a community based, non-profit council of 20 Latino organizations who provide health and



human services in Ventura County. Services include: health, education, crime prevention, employment, economic development, advocacy, emergency food and shelter assistance. El Concilio is partially funded by United Way. The organization is made up of volunteers who are involved in different service areas in the community. Grants from Mervyn's and Chevron also fund the organization.

El Concilio has about 600 volunteers who are working to identify the needs of the community. They are working to develop a needs assessment for 1984 to determine what services are needed, what needs are being met, and which are not, for Hispanics. The results of this survey will be made in a county-wide report. The goal of El Concilio is to bring about the optimal development of the Latino Community. They are involved in providing services to the community through the member organizations. Technical assistance, leadership development, workshops and seminars are also provided.

One of the needs is for low-cost housing. More recently, there is a high need for a place for homeless women over 30 to stay. There are agencies for battered wives, but none for destitute single women. Another need is for child care. Agencies are not able to meet the needs for child care.

Answers to Questions:

- . To join El Concilio, submit a written request which will be reviewed by the Board. They are looking for reciprocal agreements.
- . Migrant workers are not aware of services available to them. Interface has a directory but it is not bi-lingual. Forms need to be in Spanish as well as English. Also, migrants are very close-knit, don't depend on babysitters, but use their families for child care. Many have health needs, but are fearful of immigration problems so tend to pay for any services they receive.
- . El Concilio has no link with Headstart.
- . El Concilio has worked with the Ventura County Fair Board, having people on hand to patrol to keep gang violence under control for the past four years.
- . Ventura County is 21.4% Hispanic, and by 1990 expect to be 50%. Based on census ethnicity, Oxnard is now 44.1% Hispanic.
- . El Concilio is based in Oxnard because of the greater need of Latinos.
- . There is a great need for low-cost infant care. Information needs to be translated into Spanish, and it needs to be clear that this is professional, quality care.

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- . It may be possible to form a coalition between El Concilio and the Commission to work on the 1983-84 needs assessment of services needed not only by women but all peoples, especially minorities.
- . There will be a concert with Alicia Juarez, Mexican recording star, who is originally from Oxnard. The concert will be on June 11 at the Oxnard Community Center Auditorium. There will also be a program of dancers and the Mariachi band that travels with the dancers. Tickets will be available at the door for \$11, 410, and 48.

Yvonne requested that any information and ongoing information be sent to the Commission so that they can support El Concilio's programs.

NEW BUSINESS

Lauren Anderson moved and Virginia Connell seconded that the Commission approve requesting Commission funds to be used for Erin Sheffield to represent the Ventura County Commission for Women at the annual convention for the National Association of Commissions for Women to be held in Gary, Indiana June 15-19. Said funds are not to exceed \$400. Discussion mentioned that Erin has been asked to be a presenter at the national convention to report on the recent Child Care Symposium. Her film, "A Woman's Place is...Everywhere" is to be shown. The request for these funds needs to go through the Board of Supervisors for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Report

Annual Report writer Sandy Ryder needs submissions by June 10. Sandy will compile the report during the week of June 13. A form was handed out to detail the volunteer hours and expenses to be returned to Yvonne Bodle by June 9.

Future Meeting

The Commission's July meeting will be held July 16 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Solimar Beach home of Yvonne Bodles. Luncheon for Commissioners will follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

To recognize the substantial efforts of the private bar in the delivery of legal services to the poor, the State Bar of California Board of Governors has established the President's Pro Bono Service Award. It was suggested that the Commission recommend Hannah Beth Jackson for this award.

JoAnne Moore requested time on next month's agenda to talk about the Commission monitoring the \$50,000 that has been allocated for Victims of Domestic Violence.

Minutes submitted by Linda Hobbs, Commission secretary.