

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
3161 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, California 93003
(805) 652-6411

MINUTES
Saturday, June 15, 1985

I. The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by co-chair Dot Engel.

Commissioners Present:

Alicia Ramirez-Brewer
Ray Clayton
Ginny Connell
Dot Engel
Brook Hubbell
Sandy Ryder

Commissioners Excused:

Julie Elliott
Tila Estrada
Louise Grethel
Candace Matson
Mary Silverman
Martha White

Commissioners Absent:

Mary Jane Johns

Guests:

Bonnie Warrington, Vice President of the Friends
Fritz Conle, UFCW 78A
Benjamin Zarate, Seaboard Lemon Association
Carol Burbach, Soroptimist International of the Conejo
Lee Anderson, President of the Friends
Sylvia Preston, Child Development Resource liaison

II. Discussion of 5-Year Plan Goals and Objectives

Consultant Dawn Hodson reviewed the areas of concern which had already been identified by members of the commission. The overall focus for the needs assessment report and 5-year plan will be on the economics involved. Ms. Hodson will draft suggested purpose statements for each area of concern along with possible projects and timelines, and return to the next commission meeting with those drafts.

III. Public Participation

- A. Fritz Conle, United Food and Commercial Workers Union 78A, discussed the situation of women workers at the Seaboard Lemon Association in Oxnard. Points raised included increased mechanization of jobs usually held by women, differences in types of jobs open to women and to men, lack of opportunity for women to accrue pension benefits due to short seasonal hiring. Conle requested that the commission hold a public hearing on the employment situation at Seaboard. The commission asked that more specific information be made available to members and that further discussions be held before any decision could be made on how the commission could best deal with this information and request.
- B. Jay Orr, Child Support Division of the District Attorney's Office, discussed some of the problems and available remedies in collecting

child support generally and in Ventura County specifically. California has been more advanced than most other states and the federal government regarding child support enforcement. The first step taken by the Child Support Division would be to obtain a court order that the non-custodial parent will pay money for support. That process can take weeks or up to a year to go through the litigation, hearing and testing. Forty- states have a reciprocal pact to allow for an out-of-state parent to be taken to court to collect child support. Length of time necessary and the amount of cooperation received in other states varies due to attitudes of the people involved in those other states and to the differences in laws in other states.

Forty percent of those who should be paying child support are not paying. This leads many women to seek Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

In a divorce case, if the judge does not award child support, the woman should ask why not just to get the question into the record. A court award can be reviewed and changed as situations change. However, private legal fees are so high that they often prohibit a woman from coming back to court to ask for a change in the award.

On July 1 a law takes effect in California which will provide a uniform standard for establishing minimum child support awards.

Some remedies used to collect support payments for AFDC recipients are court orders to employers for wage assignment, tax intercepts, liens on properties, assignment of a percentage of unemployment benefits. Under a new federal and state law, it will be possible to intercept tax returns for non-welfare cases.

In Ventura County there are 20,000 active cases in the Child Support Division which has 5 attorneys, 32 case workers and approximately 70 clerical staff.

Orr suggested the commission could be helpful in educating the public on what the legal process is for collecting child support and in helping people adjust their expectations regarding that process.

Due to lack of a quorum the members present voted to act as a committee of the whole, with Minutes forwarded to the full commission for acceptance.

- IV. The Minutes of May 18 were accepted with one clarification: that the film on battered women was donated to the Thousand Oaks Library by the Soroptimist International of the Conejo.

V. Correspondence Report

Letters were received from:

- . Clinton Tatum, re county policy on fundraising activities
- . Sen. Diane Watson, Margaret Almada, Dorothy Jonas, Assemblywoman Cathie Wright re status and budget for the State Commission for Women
- . Rep. Robert Lagomarsino re federal revenue sharing
- . Donna Proske Allyn requesting information on the commission
- . Cliff Rodrigues re participation in exhibits for the Summer Teachers Workshops
- . NACW re resolutions for the convention
- . Robert Tuttle re the U.S. delegation to the end of the U.N. Decade for Women conference in Nairobi
- . Family Planning Consumer Project re state budget for family planning programs
- . JoAnn Slatten requesting information
- . California Department of Commerce re the Governor's Conference on Women in Business
- . Commissioner Estrada re attendance at commission meetings

Letters were sent to:

- . Sue Mullins, Employee Relations, Litton Guidance & Control
- . Cornelia Johnson, Shirley Katz with thanks for donations to Needs Assessment project
- . Kit Boesch, NACW, re current membership
- . Monica De La O re Sports Development USA team trip to China
- . Stanley Trom, Child Support Enforcement Unit, re information for the June 15 meeting
- . Commissioners Clayton and Estrada re attendance
- . JoAnn Slatten
- . Editors of county newspapers re " Salute To Women" nominations

VI. Financial Report

Fiscal year elapsed: 92%. Total budget spent: 74% (71% of level 1000, 82% of level 2000).

VII. Friends of the Commission and VIII Committee Reports A-E,G were deferred to July's meeting.

VIII. E Communications

Copies of the latest newsletter were presented. Commissioners were asked to distribute copies in their own communities. This newsletter was printed courtesy of General Telephone Company.

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Annual Report - Commissioners who have not turned in their information are asked to do so now.

Unfinished Business (continued)

B. Commissioners Estrada and Clayton responded to the commission regarding attendance. Estrada will continue on the commission; Clayton requested 30 days in which to make a decision about his membership on the commission.

X. New Business

A. Supervisor Lacey's office has announced the appointment of Jean Bush to this commission.

There is a second vacancy on the commission still to be filled by Supervisor Lacey.

B. The meeting date for July has been changed to the second Saturday, July 13.

C. Commissioners Engel, Connell and Ryder and Bonnie Warrington will attend the tri-county commission meeting in Santa Barbara on Saturday, July 6.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

mjb 6/24/85