

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

May 22, 1982

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Yvonne Bodle, Co-Chair
Lauren Anderson
Mary Baird
Dorothy Engel
Lupe Gonsalves
Brook Hubbell
Carol Keochekian
JoAnne Le Fils-Moore
Erin Sheffield
Mary Jane Johns
Sandra Smith Ryder

STAFF

Beverly French

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Virginia Connell, Co-Chair
Ida Richardson
Tila Estrada

GUESTS

Lee Anderson - Conejo
Women in Business
Judy Wong - BPW
Bonnie Warrington
Glee Lewis - BPW
Joan Woodward
Susan Elam
Nancy Ergay
Marie Kennedy - VCWEE

CALL TO ORDER

The May meeting of the Ventura County Commission for Women was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Co-Chair Yvonne Bodle. Commissioners and guests introduced themselves, and then Lee Anderson was introduced. She announced that the Conejo Women in Business would have Gloria Allred as a guest speaker on the subject of "Women's Rights in the 80's" on June 27 in Thousand Oaks. Anderson also told about meetings in May to introduce two candidates for office, Ginger Gherardi and Harriet Kosmo Henson.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the April 24 meeting of the Commission were reviewed and a motion by Lauren Anderson was made to accept the Minutes as submitted. Motion seconded and passed.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Executive Secretary Sandra Ryder reviewed incoming and outgoing correspondence:

1. There was a letter from Cheryl Rosenburg of Pleasant Valley Hospital, thanking Dorothy Engel for setting up the special Child Care Project meeting on May 13.
2. There was a letter from Commissioner Tila Estrada regarding a child care center she is establishing in Oxnard.
3. There was a letter from the Tulare County Commission for Women, encouraging our work and urging us to continue representing women. They will be studying single families during this year. Bodle suggested a response to this letter.
4. Molly Carrillo of Women's Education and Employment sent a letter asking for support from us in securing funds for next year. JoAnne Moore moved to write such a letter to support them. Sandra Ryder will draft that letter.
5. The Commission sent a letter to Child Care Resource and Referral regarding the grant we and they applied for. We asked for confirmation about which exact grant they applied for, and also encouraged a spirit of working together in the interest of good quality child care.
6. Regarding this same issue, there was a letter from the Commission to Barry Goldwater, Jr., telling him that we are trying to establish a working relationship with Child Care Resource and Referral in the matter of applying for a federal grant.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Erin Sheffield reported that as of April 30, 1982, 99% of the Services and Supplies Account had been spent; 66% of all funds had been spent, and \$2,548.18 remained of the Commission's budget for this year. She also reported that \$415 had been contributed for the newsletter and that the bill for the printing of the newsletter was \$600.

Sheffield also reported on the Budget Hearing with James Isom of PSSA: Sheffield, Bodle and Virginia Connell met with Kathy Chester, Barbara Fitzgerald (both of Fiscal Office) and James Isom, Director of the Agency, to present our budget for the 1982-83 fiscal year. The meeting went very well, and Isom indicated that there shouldn't be any problems with our budget for next year. A request was also made for the staff secretary to be given permanent status with the Commission, and this request will be taken into consideration. Isom also said a written report to the Board of Supervisors was necessary by June. He and Jean Getchell both requested copies of this report.

CHILD CARE PROJECT COMMITTEE

Steve Wiman prepared the Minutes from the May 15 meeting of the Committee and these were passed out to members present. Dorothy Engel reported on the special May 13 meeting of the Child Care Committee with representatives from selected companies. At that meeting, the employer brochure was presented to these professionals and their opinion was polled, including some surprising responses. After collecting all the suggestions given at that meeting, the general direction of the Committee's impetus will be reorganized. The Committee can begin marketing of these ideas with the help of four people from the May 13 test group. Four new task forces now formed are: (1) Employer Packet - Brook Hubbell, (2) Marketing - Sue Minich, (3) Publicity - Sandra Ryder, and (4) Conference - Carol Keochekian. These groups are to meet to discuss specific tasks and timelines for the performance of those tasks.

Steve Wiman reported on licensing requirements for day care homes. He indicated that the requirements are fairly minimal compared to day care centers. Given these minimal licensing requirements, the Committee will recommend to the Commission (regarding advertising) the following:

1. The Commission, with such approval as may be necessary, should contact Ventura County newspapers and encourage them to provide a notice with their child care ads that family day care homes and day care centers must be licensed unless specifically exempted. Further, the notice should advise parents to contact the Public Social Services Agency regarding questions on licensing.
2. Request that the Board of Supervisors declare September "Quality Child Care Month." The Commission would encourage local papers to do features and articles on what parents should look for in child care centers and family day care homes.

A discussion of day care licensed homes followed. Day care mothers are concerned that unlicensed homes are taking business from them. Mary Jane Johns suggested that women's groups at churches disseminate information on day care licensing. Carol Keochekian moved to adopt the recommendation of the Child Care Committee that the Commission contact newspapers in Ventura County about advertising. It was also suggested that we write this notice ourselves. Do we need approval of the Board of Supervisors before approaching papers? Brook Hubbell suggested making a written request to the Board of Supervisors for going to the press at the same time we present our annual report on June 15. The Child Care Committee will make a written request to the Board of Supervisors as part of their child care report on June 15. Motion seconded and passed.

Further, a motion was made to declare September as "Quality Child Care Month" in Ventura County. This request will also be made to the Board of Supervisors on June 15 as part of the Child Care Committee's report to the Board. Both requests should be made on June 15 as parts of one request. Bodle suggested that they could make a packet to present to the press. The motion was seconded and passed. Engel said she would also like to see support from the Day Care Association on this issue.

Hubbell indicated that the Committee lacks financial analysis. Someone needs to be doing cost effectiveness to employers of day care centers at the work site. Keochekian said the Committee could just quote figures from other centers already established. Hubbell said they need the actual figures to present to each company considering setting up a center. Engel said no business except a hospital in this area could be used as an example. Hubbell has one example from a company in San Diego. Engel said they will discuss this at the next Committee meeting, and they will try to make some contacts with financial people in the meantime. Keochekian will be looking into putting a conference together on child care for later in the year.

The next meeting of the Child Care Committee will be on Saturday, June 12, at the Thousand Oaks Library.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair Sandra Ryder spoke about funding problems the newsletter is now faced with for the next few issues. She would like it to be totally self-supporting from donations and sponsorships, as well as advertising. The Commission needs to encourage advertising from the County's business-women. Mary Jane Johns wants to see a child pictured in the masthead. Ryder said the newsletter can be a powerful tool to help women. Could we approach day care centers about advertising? Sheffield suggested making the newsletter into a monthly bulletin combined with press releases. Ryder said the Committee will meet to discuss various suggestions made. Judy Wong of the Golden Triangle Business and Professional Women's Club donated \$25 as sponsorship of the newsletter. Lee Anderson would like to advertise in the newsletter, also.

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

JoAnne Moore is investigating the possibility of getting grants from available sources. The material that has been researched will be on file in the Commission's office. Bodle said there are several organizations that said they would volunteer their time to help with the Commission's work. Can they be contacted to help with the Resources Development Committee's work? Keochekian suggested using the services of the County Grants Coordinator, Susan Van Abel.

Congratulations were extended to JoAnne Moore for being presented with the Soroptimist's "Women Helping Women" Award. She has also been elected as president of the Ventura Business and Professional Women's Club.

Bodle brought up the matter of in-kind support contributions. She indicated that all Commissioners should turn in their time and expenses and mileage spent on Commission business so the report to the Board of Supervisors could be accurate.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

Lupe Gonsalves discussed the following bills:

AB 3693 - Assemblyman Art Agnos' bill on child support. The State Commission on the Status of Women recommends child support measures. The Legislative Analysis Committee wants the Commission to support this bill through County Analyst Blake Boyle, who will then make that suggestion to the Board of Supervisors. The bill attempts to standardize child support obligations. Motion seconded and passed.

SB 1835 - This bill is an equal pay act, which is presented at the request of the State Commission on the Status of Women. The bill states that equal work requires equal pay. Sandra Ryder moved to support this bill. Motion seconded and passed.

There has been a proposal by State Legislative Analyst to recommend the State Commission on the Status of Women have their budget cut from the figure of \$420,000 to \$10,000, which would mean the abolition of the Commission. The State Commission has requested that Ventura County support the funding of the Commission's regular budget for next year. Motion was made and carried to write a letter to the State Commission, indicating our support for their budget. Also, letters will be sent to legislators and to members of the Committee hearing this matter. It was also suggested that one of the Commissioners meet with Chuck Imbrecht to discuss this matter.

AB 3370 - This bill regarding paternity leave would give fathers four months of unpaid leave of absence to care for newly born or adopted children. The pros and cons were discussed by the Commissioners. Keochekian moved to support this bill. Seconded and passed.

AB 2994 - Next month this bill to increase the cost of birth certificates from three dollars to seven dollars will be discussed. The extra money would be put into child abuse prevention programs.

INFORMATIONAL

1. Commissioner Erin Sheffield and Joan Woodward of Woodfield Productions showed their multi-image program, entitled "Women In Today's World." The combination of slides, movies and music showed the various jobs and fields open to the women of today.
2. Yvonne Bodle discussed the need for the Commission to select a Nominating Committee by July. This item is just informational, so the Commissioners can be thinking about whether they would like to be a part of this Committee which will make and accept nominations for the coming election of officers of the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Yvonne Bodle discussed the need for a Sexual Harassment Committee to be established to deal with all the calls coming into the office regarding this matter, and also the need to establish a policy for the County of Ventura on this issue. Since there is no policy on matters of sexual harassment in Ventura County, perhaps the Commission could research this matter and suggest a policy to the Board of Supervisors. Would the Commission like to consider establishing such a committee at this time? It was suggested that perhaps our energies are put into child care and we may not be able to expend our time and energies in some new direction. It was suggested that the office secretary refer such calls to the Fair Employment Agency on Ralston Avenue in Ventura or to the Fair Employment Practice Commission in Santa Barbara. Ryder suggested that such a possible committee be called "Discrimination/Sexual Harassment Committee." Lupe Gonsalves moved that the Commission wait until next month's meeting to decide whether we will set up such a committee. Motion carried.
2. The Commission's By-Laws allow for an Award and Installation Committee to install new officers in September. Can we elect a new chairperson for that committee? Lupe Gonsalves volunteered to chair that Committee and was approved. Awards for outstanding members of the community will be given, also. Erin Sheffield will help Gonsalves with some ideas. Next month, Gonsalves will report on a possible installation dinner for new officers.
3. The Coalition Against Household Violence failed to get a house to use as a shelter for battered women on the west side of the County. JoAnne Moore moved that the Commission write letters of support to Oxnard and Ventura mayors and city councils and the County Board of Supervisors. Motion seconded and passed. Sandra Ryder will draft the letter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Coalition Against Household Violence will hold a barbeque on Saturday, May 22, at the Ban Dar in Ventura from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

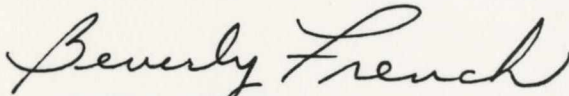
Marie Kennedy introduced herself. She is from the Ventura County Women's Employment and Education, and will be working with the Child Care Committee.

Nancy Stehle, President of Interface for the last six months, and on the Board with Interface for the last five years, has been promoted to a position in Washington, D.C. The Commission will extend a letter of congratulations to her.

The Commission's next meeting will be on June 19 at the Camarillo Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



BEVERLY FRENCH
Staff Secretary