

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

September 11, 1982

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Yvonne Bodle, Co-Chair  
Virginia Connell, Co-Chair  
Dorothy Engel  
Brook Hubbell  
Mary Baird  
Carol Keochekian  
Stephen Wiman  
JoAnne Moore  
Sandra Ryder  
Erin Sheffield  
Tila Estrada  
Ida Richardson  
Lupe Gonsalves

STAFF

Beverly French

CALL TO ORDER

The September meeting of the 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 July 17 meeting of the Commission for Women were reviewed. There were no corrections, and JoAnne Moore moved to approve them as submitted. Motion was carried.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Mary Jane Johns  
Lauren Anderson

GUESTS

Thelma Elliott (CWCA)  
Nancy Grasmehr  
(District II Office)  
Betty Ube (Buena Center BPW)  
Kathleen Johnson  
(Rainbow House)  
Ann Gurr (Rainbow House)  
Judie Christensen  
(Rainbow House)  
Mamie Island

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sandra Ryder reported on outgoing and incoming correspondence as follows:

1. The Commission sent a letter to the City Planning Commission supporting the shelter for battered women proposed by the Coalition Against Household Violence.
2. The Commission wrote a letter to Ruth McPherson, Affirmative Action Officer for the Ventura County Community College District, regarding current legislation AB 3133 that was requested. This assembly bill deals with discrimination in education.
3. Virginia Connell, Co-Chair, received a letter from Camarillo State Hospital, thanking her for her excellent presentation on the activities of the Commission for Women.
4. There was a letter from John Chase dated August 3 directed to the Board of Supervisors, in which PIC unanimously voted to support continued funding for the Commission for Women.
5. A letter was sent to us from the Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women asking for news items.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance Officer Erin Sheffield reported that the Commission had recieved 100% of the funds requested from the Board of Supervisors, plus an additional \$2,500 for the Child Care Conference, for a total budget of \$13,100. As of August 20, seven percent of the 1982-83 budget had been spent.

A group called the Friends of the Commission has been formed to handle the finances for the banquet. All money will go through Erin Sheffield, who is Treasurer for Friends of the Commission. As of this meeting, \$10.00 has been spent on a rubber stamp and \$40.26 has been spent on invitations for the banquet.

Sheffield pointed out that other petty cash transactions can also be handled through this same account. It was decided that, instead of handling money through Sheffield's private bank account in the name of Friends of the Commission, it would be better to set up a separate account in that group's name. Lupe Gonsalves will also be able to sign on this account.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Gonsalves reported that basically the Committee had decided to keep the same slate as last year, except that Lauren Anderson would be nominated for the position of Executive Secretary, since Sandra Ryder had resigned from that position. Also, Gonsalves was nominated for the office of



Co-Chair. At this point, the question was raised as to whether it was still the pleasure of the Commission to have Co-Chairs instead of just one Chair. Sheffield moved to retain the Co-Chair positions. Motion carried.

Lauren Anderson was elected as the Executive Secretary. Erin Sheffield was re-elected as the Finance Officer. A secret ballot was conducted for the office of Co-Chairs. Yvonne Bodle and Virginia Connell were re-elected. All officers were presented with carnations by Sandra Ryder, last year's Executive Secretary. They will be formally installed at Awards and Installation Banquet on October 28.

INFORMATION: PRESENTATION (ALCOHOL RECOVERY HOME FOR WOMEN)

Judy Christensen, Kitty Johnson, Ann Gurr and Thelma Elliott were present to give information and answer questions about Rainbow House, the new alcohol recovery program for women in Ventura. Rainbow House is an open end recovery home. Women will be able to stay from three to six months if necessary, and can apply for further help if it is needed. The format for the program is based on the problems of women, such as career planning, family care, etc. Child care is a problem for alcoholic women.

The house that is being established in Ventura will house 15 women. There will be an Open House in mid-October. \$25,000 funding has been recieved from Ventura County and will be used as start-up money. The money comes from the drunk driving funds. In one year, they hope to be self-supporting. They have already raised about \$7,000, which is very good since they have only been in operation since January 1982. Licnesing for Rainbow House will be through the State Department of Social Services, and certification will also be through the State.

There has been great support for this program from Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and other organizations. Women can be referred through other agencies; however, since this is not a medical facility, women must be without a drink for 23 hours before entering Rainbow House. Some of the staff members are also members of the AA staff. Meetings are for women only, though some speakers will be men, as well. The Director has not been assigned yet. There will be a film about alcoholic women called "The Story of Beatrice" shown on CBS-TV on September 29.

CHILD CARE PROJECT COMMITTEE

Chair Dorothy Engel reported that the Board of Supervisors declared the month of September to be "Quality Child Care Month" and the Commission was one of the sponsors. A press packet concerning this subject was sent to all press and radio/TV stations in Ventura County. Steve Wiman also set up several interviews on radio and TV programs.



The Employer Packet and Conference Sub-Committees are proceeding with the printing of a flyer on child care in industry, which was developed by Carol Keochekian. The flyer is being printed through the Private Industry Council (PIC) and will be sent to all Ventura County industries employing over 50 people. The child care brochure, an expansion of the flyer, will also be printed through PIC. The presentation booklet on child care, which is an expansion of the brochure, is being prepared as a follow-up to the flyer and brochure. The title of the brochure is KISS: Kids and Industry - a Success Story.

Engel reported on a special meeting of the Child Care Project Committee. The committee will be reorganized into the following sub-committees:

Conference Sub-Committee (Carol Keochekian will chair)

Marketing Management Sub-Committee (Brook Hubbell will chair)

Legislation Sub-Committee (to be formed later)

Keochekian said the Conference Sub-Committee is just beginning to set up their work. Chris Eakins, John Chase, Steve Wiman and she will be planning an initial meeting to set up a steering committee with industry. The Conference on child care is planned for May 26, 1983, at California Lutheran College.

The next meeting of the Child Care Project Committee will be on Tuesday, September 21, 1982.

Steve Wiman asked the question: Where does the Commission's responsibility toward child care end? He thinks the Conference is a good ending point. From there, industry can take over what the Commission has begun, with help from the Commission where it is needed. Connell said it would be good to prepare a booklet to give to the Board of Supervisors as part of our Annual Report in June 1983. The booklet would outline all the work done by the Child Care Project Committee during its existence.

#### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The second edition of the newsletter is out! Sheffield and the staff secretary discussed the ins and outs of getting it printed, and various obstacles that had to be overcome in doing so. The Commission's Executive Committee will meet with James Isom and the Fiscal Department of PSSA to see if the newsletter can be printed through the County's Graphics Dept. Sandra Ryder, Newsletter Editor, indicated that the next issue should be out around the first week of November.



LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

During the July meeting of the Commission, two pieces of legislation were discussed: SB 1802 (Garimendi) and SB 1664 (Watson). Both bills died before they could be researched further. Engel suggested that action be taken to follow through and see that these bills are reintroduced in the Senate and in the Assembly. It was further suggested working through a co-op to accomplish this goal, or contacting other Commissions on Women to ask for help. It was moved to seek reintroduction of both bills and explore the possibility of having local sponsors. The possibility will be explored to have the bills reintroduced in both houses, instead of just the Senate. Motion seconded and passed.

Connell reported that the bill on health insurance conversion is dead and that the Agnos bill on child support died, as well. She will get more information on these bills.

Connell also reported on the Women's Issues Candidates Forum held by the women's Equity Coalition. She said it was well supported, with 250 people in attendance. It was an event which demonstrated women's involvement in politics.

Gonsalves reported that Omer Rains overturned the barring of the State Commission on the Status of Women from lobbying. She moved that the Commission write a letter of thanks to him. Motion was carried.

Gonsalves also reported on the following bills:

SB 1330 - The Presley bill was signed on August 17 by the Governor, and will aid victims of domestic violence.

AB 1985 - This Johnson bill on job discrimination passed August 13.

AB 2994 - This Imbrecht bill regarding child abuse and neglect programs also passed recently.

HR 2387 - This Collins bill is still alive in the House of Representatives and is pending. It will establish federal child care programs to help with child care services.

Bodle suggested that Congressman Lagomarsino and Bobbi Fiedler be invited to one of our meetings to discuss the above bill with us.

Other bills still pending included service person's pension not regarded as community property, which are SB 1814 in the Senate and HB 6030 in the House.



AWARDS AND INSTALLATION COMMITTEE

The banquet invitations were passed out for review. Seating arrangements were discussed. Everyone will be assigned to a particular table. The Commissioners will have name tags on each table to which they are assigned. The speaker at the banquet will be Priscilla-Partridge Rankin, and she will speak on the topic "Women At Work Inside and Outside the Home: A Perfect Balance."

The various awards were discussed. Nomination forms are available at the county's libraries and at the Commission office. Invitations will be mailed soon, and each Commissioner will be given several invitations to give out personally. The Awards and Installation Committee will meet on October 7 at the Commission office to go over the nominations and decide on the awards, seating arrangements and the program. A special Committee will be formed to deal with the nominations, which will consist of Sandra Ryder, Lupe Gonsalves, Erin Sheffield, Tila Estrada and Yvonne Bodle.

NEW BUSINESS

The Coalition Against Household Violence is completing its plans for its new shelter for battered women. However, a neighbor has filed a complaint against the shelter's location, and this item will go before the Ventura City Council Monday, September 13 at 7:30 p.m. The Commission for Women will speak to the issue.

It was moved and seconded to recommend John Chase of the Private Industry Council for his support of "Quality Child Care Month." His assistance has been greatly appreciated. It was also the concensus of the commission to recognize Mr. Chase on the Awards Banquet program.

It is time to renew our membership in the National Association of Com-missions for Women (NACW), and the fee is \$50 per year. Money has been budgeted. It was moved and seconded to pay the dues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Commission meeting will be on Saturday, October 9, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the clubhouse at 1800 Masthead, Oxnard. The following meeting will be held on Saturday, November 20, at the Camarillo Library at 9:00 a.m.

Sheffield said she wants to see the Commission establish a newspaper clipping service so that we don't miss any news or announcements which come out in local county papers. The Commissioners volunteered to cut

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out any appropriate articles and give them to the staff secretary to put in the Commission's scrapbooks. The following Commissioners will help:

Mary Baird - Simi Valley Enterprise  
Dorothy Engel - Thousand Oaks Chronicle  
Lupe Gonsalves - Ventura Star-Free Press  
Tila Estrada - Oxnard Press Courier  
Erin Sheffield - Camarillo Daily News

The Southern California Coalition on Battered Women is sponsoring Domestic Violence Awareness Week from October 9-16, 1982. There will be a Unity Day Walkathon and Rally on October 16. For more information, call (213)392-9874.

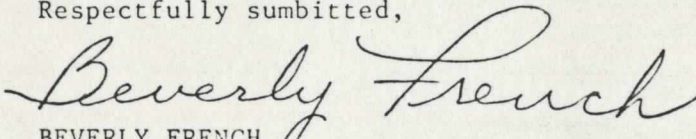
The Child Care Resource and Referral Center in Oxnard is sponsoring the Pickle Family Circus on September 28 and 29, 1982, in Oxnard at the Oxnard Community Center Park. Tickets are on sale now.

There will be a Business and Professional Women's fund raiser on September 17. They are sponsoring a trip to Solvang to see Carosel. For more information, contact your local BPW club.

Tila Estrada is proceeding to open a child care center in Oxnard. The center is in need of tables, chairs, cots, and other equipment. Anyone who wants to donate these items can get in touch with Ms. Estrada.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
BEVERLY FRENCH  
Staff Secretary