



1600 Pacific Highway, Room 203

San Diego, CA 92101-2942

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Chair: Parisa Ijadi-Maghsoodi

Vice Chair

Deja Cabrera

Nadia Farjood

Melinda Vásquez

District 4, Fletcher

Parisa Ijadi-Maghsoodi

Melinda Vásquez

District 1, Vargas

Deja Cabrera

Leah Goodwin

District 5, Desmond

Sherry Ludwig

Amy Nantkes

District 2, Anderson

Mary Davis

Lauren Schulte

Members At Large

Nadia Farjood

Vernita Gutierrez

(Vacant)

District 3,

Lawson-Remer

Eve Benton

Kristine Custodio Suero

Staff Assistant

Cristina Garcia

County Counsel

Frances Rogers

MINUTES

August 4, 2023

Regular Meeting

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi: Meeting was called to order at 12:06 PM

Commissioner Roll Call:

Members Present In-person:

Chair: Parisa Ijadi-Maghsoodi – District 4, Fletcher

Vice Chair: Deja Cabrera – District 1, Vargas

Vice Chair: Nadia Farjood – Member At-Large (left at 12:50pm – back on remote at 1:00pm)

Vice Chair: Melinda Vásquez – District 4, Fletcher

Leah Goodwin – District 1, Vargas (late 12:09pm)

Mary Davis – District 2, Anderson

Lauren Schulte – District 2, Anderson

Eve Benton – District 3, Lawson-Remer

Kristine Custodio Suero – District 3, Lawson-Remer

Sherry Ludwig – District 5, Desmond

Amy Nantkes – District 5, Desmond

Vernita Gutierrez – Member At-Large

Members Present Virtually:

None

Members Absent:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Ludwig made a motion to approve the July 7, 2023 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Benton seconded the motion. All commissioners present voted in favor of the

motion, including Commissioner Goodwin who was late to the meeting but present for the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None

Business:

1. CEDAW Presentation (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women): Vice Chair Farjood shared they gave a similar presentation to the Gender Equity Working Group that is led by Vanessa Green with the Office of Equity and Racial Justice at the County of San Diego. Anyone on the commission is welcome to attend those meetings. The presentation will be shared with everyone. Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi shared we want to use this framework to achieve gender equity, eliminate barriers, and apply an intersectional gender equity approach. Vice Chair Farjood suggested a book to read - *Invisible Woman*. Chair Farjood shared the 3 major components of CEDAW – 1) statement of values and goals to prevent and eliminate discrimination and to achieve gender equity, 2) implementation of Countywide intersectional gender analysis, 3) development of gender equity strategy and action plans across the County. There are 3 key roles the Ordinance is looking at: 1) service provider, 2) employer, 3) community and business partner. For the Ordinance areas of focus please read the Ordinance Section 32.832. Regarding the Request for Proposal for the baseline analysis, Commissioner Goodwin is serving on the Source Selection Committee and Commissioner Custodio Suero is serving as a technical advisor.
2. Presentation on Reflections from Former Commissioner and Chair Jenni Prisk: Former Chair Commissioner Prisk shared she was Chair of the Commission from 2015-2017. When she was on the Commission, they received a \$5,000 grant to put on their annual symposium. To have \$32,000 for the *Know Your Rights* workshops is great! Moving on to reflection – is it important to know your supervisors who have appointed you into this position. The Commission used to host a luncheon with the Supervisors once a year where the Commission purchased the lunch which was delivered. The Commission would sit down with the Supervisors and go over the annual report, they could ask questions and we could ask them questions about various issues the commission was working on. It was fun, friendly, but it was business orientated. Then once or twice, Supervisor Ron Roberts attended the Christmas party put on by the Commission. His Chief of Staff also attended. So former Commissioner Chair Prisk suggested to invite the supervisors to something informal. Also, get to know one another as commissioners socially. When you know more about the person sitting across the table from you, you can align with her and work with her on commission committees together. When you sign up for a committee, be committed – that's what it means – commitment. Women must join boards and commissions for the work, not just the kudos. There were appointees who were serving on the board so that it would look good on the resume. Although it does, but when you put in the foot work, that is when it counts and makes a difference. The work must matter to you. If it doesn't matter to you anymore, speak with the Chair and let her know your time is up. It is great to have an attorney at the head of your table. When you are in a meeting, come prepared. Come with questions that are brief and to the point. Continue to be a guiding light. Work together and collaborate with other Commissions like the City Commission. Commissioner Custodio Suero asked what the annual symposium is. Former Chair Prisk shared they were blessed to have Senator Tony Atkins come, they found very good venues, had panels, youth that presented theatre around violence with youth, workshops on human trafficking, domestic violence and homelessness which were the focus of the commission and the main topics of the symposium. They had members of the community speak on those topics, good attendance (60-100 people and sometimes more), exhibit halls, and fortunate when Senator Atkins was in town to speak.

3. Authorize the Governance Committee to use grant funds to purchase goods and services for purposes allowed under the grant agreements with the California Commission on the Status of Women: tabling and moving on to #5 since one of the presenters must leave early (came back to this item at 1:00pm after concluding item #5) –

Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi mentioned now that we have heard the changes from the Policy Committee regarding *Know Your Rights* series – changing from hosting individual sessions to hosting a one day symposium – with that said we still need to use the grant funds to accomplish the work in the grant application, including childcare, providing meals, interpretation and translation, and having copies of written information from each panel – for all five panels we will also have *Know Your Rights* handouts. We want copies of those handouts produced in different languages and put on the website. This agenda item is to ensure we are not delay this month to month for a full commission vote. Instead, we are delegating to a specific commission the authority to make those decisions.

Commissioner Schulte made a motion as presented – the motion is to authorize the Governance Committee to use grant funds to purchase goods and services for purposes allowed under the grant agreements with California Commission on the Status of Women. Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed with all commissioners present voting in favor. Vice Chair Farjood was absent during the vote.

4. Discussion on pending closure of Tri-City Hospital Women and Newborns Services (tabling and moving on to #5 since one of the presenters must leave early) –

Commissioner Davis shared her concerns were any time you are closing a resource you are putting a burden on a community, especially a vulnerable community. They are saying there is about a 20-minute commute to the nearest facility. Vice Chair Vásquez recommended having the executive committee discuss it and having Commissioner Davis attend. Commissioner Davis wants to make sure there is outreach to the community and providing different options. She said Tri-City is hoping to get funding by partnering with another entity in order to stay open for services. Commissioner Gutierrez shared she did some research that Palomar Health closed its Poway Labor and Delivery back in June for similar reasons (low deliver numbers and challenges with recruiting service providers). They transferred those services to Escondido which is about 11 miles from Poway. Also, Paradise Valley Hospital also closed their Labor and Delivery back in mid-2021 also due to lack of demand. This is part of a national trend. March of Dimes also reported 21.7% decrease in # birthing hospitals in California between 2019 to 2020 and 6.4% of women did not have a birthing hospital within 30 minutes. Tri-City is saying there is 1 birth per a day which is a loss in demand. Commissioner Goodwin mentioned the bigger point is access. In the Southeast San Diego community there is no urgent care. It has been on the news. It is a very underserved community. If we want to attack health access, we need to think bigger. Commissioner Ludwig shared the focus has been in the south, but she pointed out that Fallbrook which belongs to District 5, these services are not available except 3 birthing centered. There is no urgent care, must travel to Temecula for urgent care. The transportation piece that Supervisor Desmond did pertain to afterschool resources for students, but it was brought up that the senior community also needs to the same consideration. Fallbrook is considered a rural community. Commissioner Nantkes shared birth rates in the county which could be contributing to the closures of birthing hospitals. Between 1990-2021 average yearly 44,526 live births and in 2021 down to 37,456. It is a trend we are seeing nationally. Commissioner Davis would like to look at alternative options for the patients of Tri-City. Look at doulas, outreaches with Live Well vans like the homeless, getting non-profits to do well-checks, etc. Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi invited Commissioner Davis to the executive committee to discuss this further.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Policy: Vice Chair Farjood mentioned the bulk of her updates are on the Committee report that was attached to the agenda packet. We would like to have a one-day *Know*

Your Rights symposium in March of 2024 for Women's History Month – healthcare, housing, immigration, employment and trafficking. Having it all at one venue in one place. If having *Know Your Rights* be one day, to making sure it is accessible. Thinking about venues along the trolley line and other accessible measures, making the sessions hybrid and record them so that if people cannot attend, they can watch it later. Tentatively March 2, 2024 or March 9, 2024 for a kick off of Women's History Month. Commissioners Gutierrez and Nantkes researched the County's Parental Leave Policy. Three main areas – 1) making sure commissioner understand of what the current Parent Leave Policy is, 2) evaluating the last proposal that was presented to the Board of Supervisors in Jan. 2020 to extend of which failed, 3) analyzing other Counties and Cities in California. Potentially proposing a new parental leave policy. At the next meeting we will hear from the CEO of Girls Inc. San Diego. Strong – empowerment – get involved in advocacy. Smart – STEM and academy success. Bold – personal skill development. Next Policy meeting is scheduled for August 30th from 3:30pm-4:30pm.

- b. Civic Engagement: Vice Chair, Chair Cabrera mentioned some of the graphics have changed. Working with Policy Committee with their collaborators and other organizations to get their logos and adding those to our graphics. Commissioner Goodwin reached out to some folks to help with marketing. Vice Chair, Chair Cabrera will be working welcoming the new commissioners so if you have not sent in your headshots and bios, please send them to Vice Chair Cabrera and Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi. The next Civic Engagement meeting will be held on August 8th at noon via Zoom. Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi mentioned they are working on updating the commission website – removing old commissioners and adding new commissioners.
 - c. Governance: Vice Chair, Chair Vásquez shared the committee has not had the chance to meet, but the standing issue is revising the By-laws and presenting the changes at the next meeting. Vice Chair, Chair Vásquez will reach out to those who have expressed interest in serving on the Governance Committee. Hoping to have a commission meeting in August and present at the next commission meeting in September. Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi also shared that the governance committee will oversee the grant reports. The Governance Committee will be tasked with ensuring the Commission is submitting those reports and aware of grant deadlines. Those who want to participate in the Governance Committee, please raise your hand so we are aware: Commissioners Davis, Benton, Schulte, Gutierrez.
6. Initiative Updates and Liaison Reports:
- a. Women's Hall of Fame: There has been communication with organizers. Commissioner Goodwin mentioned the Commission co-founded the organization and the Commission is allotted 2 people on the committee. The Women's Hall of Fame website shares all the wonderful people who have been inducted. Vice Chair Vásquez shared they do not have a date yet for the next meeting date. Invites another commissioner to serve on the Women's Hall of Fame committee. If interested, please reach out to Vice Chair Vásquez directly.
 - b. Association of California Commissions for Women: Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi mentioned there is no update. If anyone is interested in serving as a liaison, please reach out to her directly.
7. Commissioner Announcements
- Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi shared 1) new appointee – the Commission, through the executive committee, nominated an applicant for the at-large position. Once we find out when this item will be heard, we will let you know so you can provide public comment in support of the nomination, 2) Chair will be meeting with the City Commission later this month about the work they are doing and will share what she can at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Davis shared she went to a national night out and received Narcan for free

and encourages all to carry it with them. It is for fentanyl overdoses counteractive.

Commissioner Benton asked if we could work together with the City Commission on what we are doing and what they are doing since we are doing some of the same things. Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi and Vice Chair Vásquez shared that we are different entities and have different by-laws. Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi shared that the commission is currently meeting with them 1:1 and would like to have a formal liaison who can attend their meetings. Commissioner Benton volunteered to be the liaison.

Commissioner Gutierrez mentioned Girls Inc. has an annual event called She Leads that is scheduled for September 20th at 6pm at Green Arches (UCSD area). Event that honors women leaders. Tickets are \$125.

Commissioner Ludwig shared there are 2 commissioners for each district. This is her 12th year but worried about the legalities of voting. Chair Ijadi-Maghsoodi shared there is an applicant so she will connect with Commissioner Ludwig because it might be helpful for Commissioner Ludwig to connect/remind that Supervisor of the need for an appointee.

2023 Regular Meetings: September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd, December 1st

ADJOURN:

- a. There be no further business, this meeting is closed at 1:32pm.

NOTE: The Commission on the Status of Women and Girls jurisdiction is established by action of the Board of Supervisors as follows: The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego declares that it is the policy of the County to take action to identify needs and problems of women in the County that are affected by public policy decisions; and furthermore, to eliminate the practice of discrimination and prejudice on the basis of sex within the County. In order to promote this policy and to provide an open forum for discussion and action, there is hereby established a San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women in the Chief Administrative Office. County Code of Administrative Ordinances, Section 85.