

1600 Pacific Highway, Room 203 San Diego, CA 92101-2942 www.sdstatusofwomenandgirls.org CSWG@sdcounty.ca.gov

Chairwoman: Melinda Vásquez

Vice Chair

Kristine Custodio Suero Amy Nantkes Vernita Gutierrez

**District 4, Montgomery Steppe** 

Idara Ogunsaju Melinda Vásquez District 1, Vargas

Leah Goodwin Deja Hartley

**District 5, Desmond** 

Rohida Khan Amy Nantkes District 2, Anderson

Mary Davis Lauren Welty

Members At Large

Lindsay Riedel Ruther Vernita Gutierrez Nadia Farjood **District 3, Lawson-Remer** 

Vacant

Kristine Custodio Suero

Staff Assistant Cristina Garcia

**County Counsel** 

Frances Rogers

**MINUTES** 

August 2, 2024

Hybrid Meeting 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Chair Melinda Vásquez: Meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM.

## **Commissioner Roll Call:**

## **Members Present In-person:**

| Melinda Vásquez         | Vernita Gutierrez |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Kristine Custodio Suero | Amy Nantkes       |
| Mary Davis              | Nadia Farjood     |
| Idara Ogunsaju          | Rohida Khan       |
| Lauren Welty            |                   |

# **Members Absent:**

| Deja Hartley          | Leah Goodwin (remote; no "just cause or emergency" |
|-----------------------|--|
| Lindsay Riedel Ruther |  |

## **Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of July 19, 2024, meeting minutes: suggested edits to be made. Comm. Farjood made a motion to continue approval of July 19, 2024, meeting minutes. Comm. Khan seconded the motion. Motion carries with all comm. present voting in favor.

## **Public Comments:**

None

#### **Business:**

**Item #4:** CEO for Sharia's Closet, Shamine Linton, not able to make it to the August meeting. Will add to the September agenda.

Item #5: Rosemary Straley, League of Women Voters, gave back story of CEDAW ordinance

dating back to 1979 to present, from resolutions to implementing of CEDAW ordinance in various cities and counties. The national spotlight is in San Diego, looking for a model of gender analysis in other cities and counties across the US.

# **Item #6:** Committee Reports:

Civic Engagement has not had a meeting since the July commission meeting. Current members are VC Custodio Suero, Comm. Goodwin and Comm. Hartley, but Comm. Hartley will be resigning from the commission. Comm. Khan and Comm. Davis interested in serving in the Civic Engagement Committee. Staff Assistant shared the new county commission website and informed everyone the redirect is in effect and the new website is live

Policy Committee has not met but scheduled to meet next Friday. County Council informed commissioners that standing committees need to follow the Brown Act. Since the bylaws and county policies states adhoc and standing committees need to be open to the public, that is a que for Brown Act. Physical location needs to be indicated, so if attending virtually from your home, then your home would need to be disclosed. The case law and state legislature would need to be updated, not just bylaws and county policy. Chair Vasquez shared that in a conversation with Council Randall, AB817 passed which would allow advisory committees to meet and not follow the Brown Act, but the Admin Code is straining their ability to meet remotely. The meaning of "public location" is considered in a public location in person as interpreted by the County Council Dept. Comm. Nantkes shared this change, or implementation, will limit the commissions work going forward. Comm. Davis suggested holding meetings at public libraries. Comm. Khan suggested 1 hour of regular commission meeting and 30 minutes subcommittee meetings. Vice Chair Nantkes suggested executive board meets, then hold the regular meeting, then committees meet to round out the time.

Governance Committee has not met since July. Vice Chair Gutierrez submitted two proposals to the State Commission on how to spend down grant funds. They are taking the proposals to the executive board and also looking at fronting the funds. Hoping to have a rough draft of bylaw revisions by next commission meeting.

Executive Board Committee – suggests changing meeting time to 2 hours (½ hour executive board, 1-hour regular meeting, ½ hour for committee meetings). 11:30am-12:00pm executive board, 12:00pm-1:00pm whole commission, 1:00pm-1:30pm subcommittee meetings, schedule going forward. Strategic Planning meeting from 2pm – 4pm, right after September meeting.

**Item #7:** CEDAW advisor, Parisa Ijadi-Maghsoodi, provided 3 updates regarding the progress on CEDAW (Attachment A) and showed a slide of the San Diego County's Ordinance Integrating the CEDAW Principles: Implementation (Attachment B).

No updates on Women's Hall of Fame. More to come around October. Still an open position for liaison between the commission and the Association of California Commissions for Women. Connect with Cahir Vasquez if interested.

**Item #8:** The next Board of Supervisors meeting is scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Suggested to attend and provide public committee. Vice Chair Custodio Suero shared Comm. Hartley submitted her resignation on July 30, 2024.

# **Information Items:**

• **2024 Meetings:** September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6

### ADJOURN:

a. There be no further business, this meeting is closed at 1:24pm.

**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.

#### ATTACHMENT A

8/2/2024: Since the last Commission meeting, there have been three updates.

- 1. Thanks to the leadership of former Chair Jenni Prisk, former Chair Prisk has met directly with Chair Vargas regarding CEDAW implementation efforts. Chair Vargas is steadfastly committed to gender justice and brought this legislation forward in 2022. We have had—and will continue to have—conversations with the Office of Chairwoman Vargas regarding the need for effective implementation of the ordinance, specifically the need to ensure (a) data from every unit is used in the necessary comparator analyses of all programs and services, and (b) alignment with the mandate in the ordinance which requires prioritizing data from the County's role as service provider. After our most recent meeting with the Office of Chairwomen Vargas, we were asked to send additional materials regarding our CEDAW ordinance, which we did.
- 2. Thank you to the leadership of Vice Chair Gutierrez for meeting with Supervisor Montgomery and her office about CEDAW implementation and status, including where we are with the baseline data analysis given that the contract with the consultant was entered into nine months ago.
- 3. Regarding the CEDAW meetings with the OERJ and the consultant, there has not been a meeting since the last Commission meeting because the regularly scheduled meeting was cancelled the day before. The County stated it was cancelled because the consultant was not prepared to provide substantial updates about the progress on the methodology memo. (Clarification provided during Q&A: we recognize that the consultant cancelled because it was still working on the memo, which was respectful of the participants' time, which we appreciate, and the next meeting is proceeding next week.) We look forward to updating you at the next Commission meeting, as well as updating the Chair between Commission meetings. We also thank Rosemary Straley, long-time Commission participant and LWV leader, for her support regarding these meetings.

Importance of baseline analysis overview: Implementation slide shown (enclosed) and emphasis on language from ordinance setting forth the Commission's roles and duties for implementation. An effective baseline analysis is necessary for the Commission to fulfil its duties and roles as mandated by the ordinance. (*See, e.g.,* Section 32.833(c)(3)-(4), see also Section 32.833(b)(7), (d)(1).)

Q&A: Commissioner Ogunsaju: requested example of difference between County's role as service provider vs. employer (example given regarding CalFresh, IHSS vs. employer including staff at CSWG meeting); Commissioner Davis: requested reason why last CEDAW meeting cancelled (explained reason was read verbatim from County's email, but we appreciated cancellation of meeting as respectful of time and shows work ongoing on memo); Commissioner Goodwin: provided overview of work enacting ordinance, including ensuring Commission part of oversight body and importance of Commission's role.

