

Indiana Commission for Women
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, April 20, 2011
Indiana State Library
Betsy Corridan, Chair, presiding

Present: Cindy Felsten, Patzetta Trice, Betsy Corridan, Linda Bloom

Also Present: Kristin Garvey, Executive Director; Anita Samuel, Governor's Liaison; Chelsea Stauch, Executive Assistant; Caroline Tucker, Park Tutor Student; Rayna Traylor, Torchbearer Award Event planner; Stella Tran, AmeriCorps Vista member

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:11 pm by Betsy Corridan. A quorum was not established at this meeting; therefore, all voting was postponed until the next meeting.

Torchbearers Report: Chair Corridan commended all the efforts put forth into this year's Torchbearer Awards, especially with the need for a quick change in location. Discussions and recommendations included:

- Forming a Torchbearer Committee of former Torchbearer Award's Recipients to help with sponsorships, logistics, and help the event planner, Rayna Traylor (Linda Bloom offered to be on this committee).
- Garvey - Having a board meeting in either January or February before the event.
- Bloom - Sending out the 'former sponsorships list' to board members to remind them who they should call.
- Board - Keep the event at the Government Center South Auditorium.
- Corridan called on Trice - offer a motion to set the event plans by booking the location and date.
- Trice - fundraising can and should start in the summer.
- Board - Keep procession from 2011 (Nominees should not be recognized).
- Board - announced/publicized recipients before the event, and special awards would be a surprise on the day of the event.
- Garvey - Parking should be better accommodated on the day of the event; perhaps, request that cars not be towed during the time of our event.
- Traylor - felt rushed with the recipients. Time should be given before the event to welcome them, rehearse the event, luncheon with legislators or governor (request this ASAP), get to know each other, photo opportunities, special hotel rate, etc.
- Board - Use EventBrite again; though the VIP registration should be more clearly placed.

Legislative Committee Report: Committee Chair, Cindy Felsten, reported that the Definition of Marriage Bill passed the House and Senate committee. SBO328 passed Senate and is in the House committee. Prenatal Substance Abuse passed Senate, in House committee now. Authority to Solemnize Marriages passed the Senate and is in the House committee. HB1210 passed the House and Senate, which added de-funding Planned Parenthood. Ms. Felsten does not attend the committee meetings, though she knows people that attend. Many legislators emphasize that PPIN performs abortions, although PPIN provides other healthcare needs.

Executive Director's Report:

The AmeriCorps VISTA: getting two more VISTAS. One in June and another in August. K.D. ___?___ is living in Boston getting her Master's Degree at Simmon's College and she will be fulfilling the New Initiatives position. The second vista will be fill Research Coordinator position.

Mother's in Transition Project: Stella Tran completed a summary of her research on women transitioning into single motherhood. Women do not have the resources to get sound legal advice and do not always believe the advice they are getting. Women need counseling to help them make the right decisions. Stella is working on the IRB process to have the research legitimately recognized, ensuring the research is following ethical guidelines. Director Garvey would like to use this research to do a comprehensive report on the status of women in Indiana. The next VISTA will perhaps work on collating all the reports so we may have a statistical snapshot of women in

Indiana. The federal government just published, in March, a comprehensive look at the status of women, and this could be a complementary piece to that.

Listening Sessions (Included handout of pilot program): Have been interesting and informative, with impressive attendance. In each location, issues seem are similar, with some variation; however, there is some variance when choosing main topics. Online survey has over 400 responses. The listening sessions provide positive outreach to communities and positive solutions, as well as information. Recurring themes are healthcare and economic stability (pay equity). Participants wish to see task forces looking at specific issues. Partnerships forming with organizations such as the IU Center for Excellence in Women's Health, who volunteered to lead any healthcare issues. Director Garvey believes Statewide debriefing in July is the next step. Ms. Felsten thinks people are asking, "What are you going to do about it?" Ms. Trice liked brainstorming sessions and thought participants have expectations for change, and we should clarify our real purpose with participants. Chair Corridan believes we can use results to frame our work. Director Garvey mentioned this will be a great topic of discussion during our board retreat, which is scheduled for November, but could be in August, to discuss the findings. Event has spurred local areas interested in starting their own commissions for women.

The NACW conference is July, in Phoenix. Interested commissioners may attend. Budget needs voted on and only one state employee is usually permitted to go. Last year Director Garvey went to D.C. Chair Corridan showed interest in hosting the NACW conference in Indianapolis.

Indianapolis Business Journal (IBJ), Pat Keiffner, proposed publishing *Writing Her Story* articles in a booklet, possible promotional item. Jessica Brannam wrote articles used in blog. Costs could be covered by grant or sponsor, such as Humanities Council. Director Garvey is looking for direction from the board to respond. Chair Corridan thinks it should be discussed at the next board meeting, and would like a report on projected costs.

Coalition of 100 Black Women – partnering on October 6th for bi-annual national conference at the Indiana Government Center South. Patzetta Trice is president of the local chapter; she will speak about the ICW. Their mission is "advocacy for the rights of women." Many members serve on their local commissions for women.

Unfinished Business:

SPD reports – Ms. Samuel stated that if anyone has questions, SPD is willing to meet one-on-one to discuss any questions. The Legislative committee has further questions, and feels they should be addressed in a board meeting. SPD would like to have all the questions ahead of time so they may respond, and then we could have a meeting to discuss what transpired.

New Business:

Falicia Brewer, experienced support for non-profit and governmental agencies: grant writing, sponsorships and event planning. Director Garvey met to discuss working with her. Ms. Samuel asked to pursue her recommendations, and board would like to meet with her.

Erin Smith of Johnson County, recently appointed by the Senator Long, President Pro Tem, and is newest member of board. She is filling the position that was left by Lisa Hershman. Rep. Clements' position is not filled and Rep. Reardon's position was filled by Rep. Gail Reicken.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kristin Garvey as reviewed by Cindy Felsten, Secretary