



# WASHINGTON STATE WOMEN'S COMMISSION

**Plenary Meeting Minutes | April 30, 2024**  
**9:30am – 2:45pm | Moses Lake, WA**

## **Attendees:**

- Executive Director Yoo
- Leah White, Staff
- Eliza Craig, Staff
- Erin Beck, Staff
- Commission Chair Dalan
- Commissioner Carrillo
- Commissioner Simons
- Commissioner Mukhopadhyay
- Commissioner Indapure
- Commissioner Perreira

## External Speaker

- Jodi Forsell, AAUW Programs Director

## Members of the Public

- Priscilla Tovar, Promotora de Salud
- Imelda Mariscal, Promotora de Salud
- Maribel Navarro, MLCHC Outreach Coordinator
- Mary Jo Ybarra-Vega, MLCHC Outreach/BH Coordinator
- Mayra Casique, Account Manager Community Health Plan
- Brisa Guajardo, Manager Business Development/CHPW
- Sheila Berschauer, MLCHC CEO

## **Opening:**

Welcome from Sheila, CEO Of Moses Lake, Ephrata, and Quincy Health Clinic.

The regular meeting of the WSWC 2024 Spring Plenary was called to order at 9:43am on April 30, 2024, by Chair Dalan.

## **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda amendment for Commissioner feedback added to the Chair Updates agenda timeslot. The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

### **Welcome**

Esperanza Tafoya and Sheila talk about available services through Moses Lake Community Health Center.

### **Public Comment**

- Outreach for Community Health Centers
- Health Insurance for Immigrants
- Initiatives to preserve the safety net - especially in light of an election year
- Things related to pharmacy, pharmacy benefits, dental accessibility

### **Introduction of New WSWC Staff member**

Director Yoo welcomes the group.

Introduces Eliza Craig, WSWC's newest staff member, Communications & Outreach Coordinator

### **Director's Report and Look Ahead**

*Grace Yoo, WSWC Executive Director*

- Updates on WSWC's activities since January
  - Legislative Session
  - Women MAKING History Month
    - Women at the Capitol Event
    - International Women's Day Panel Conversation - Global Voices
    - "Doing the Work" social media campaign
  - Black Maternal Health Week Awareness
  - Governor's Study & Trade delegation to Vietnam, meetings with national entities, corporations, and non-profits
  - Honored to attend several outreach opportunities - able to listen and learn from many different women and groups
  - Washington is in the bottom 10 of all states in terms of gender pay equity
  - Spring Intern has been doing to work to update the Women on Corporate Boards data
    - Rolling internship opportunities depending on projects available
  - Social media outreach has increased, end-of-year money possible to secure a CRM
  - Hiring two more Full-Time employees focused on development of clearinghouse for government services, & pay equity programming and legislative support
  - Upcoming Commissioner and FTE recruitment
- Activate 3.8 Campaign
  - 3.8 is a reference to the 3.8 million women in WA State

- Bring together government, labor, business, and academia to co-create solutions that account for the full career cycle of women
  - K-12 Education, Early Career, Mid-Career, and Senior Level
    - K-12: Messaging campaign June 2024 - July 2025: partnership with Girl Scouts of Western and Eastern Washington to give K-12 girls exposure to jobs in STEM, Trades, non-traditional positions, etc.
    - Early Career: WTB, Commerce, L&I, OMWBE, ESD- amplify existing services
    - Wraparound Services for Mid-Career will be policy focused
    - Senior Level - representation in leadership, Women on Corporate Boards, encourage companies to go above and beyond for Women on Corporate Boards and Equal Pay Act

## **2024 Legislative Session Update**

*Leah White, WSWC Legislative Affairs & Operations Manager*

- 2024 was a short Legislative Session
- Secured staffing increase (2 FTEs were approved)
- HB2098 (add "to solicit" to RCW) did not get past the House floor
  - Plan to bring back in 2025 session
- Proviso did not make it in the budget
- WSWC tracked 126 Bills
  - Took action on 56 Bills
  - Commissioners testified on 4 bills in Committee
  - Staff testified on 3 bills in Committee
  - 23 Commission-supported bills signed into law by Governor Inslee
- Gubernatorial administration change coming with the November election
  - WSWC Staff will continue working with current Gov staff and OFM on 2025 budget
- Session Recap live on WSWC's website under the Legislative Advocacy tab
- Notable Legislative Priorities that passed:
  - SHB 1905 - add protected classes in Equal Pay and Opportunities Act to avoid getting referred out from L&I
  - HB 2266 - sanitary conditions for nursing/pumping and menstruating construction workers

## **Equity in Education Coalition Overview and ELAC Updates**

*Commissioner Dre Carrillo*

- Equity in Education Coalition is looking to change the name from Coalition to Center
- Only state-wide civil rights organization that deals with education
- Legislative Priorities:
  - create public education system that is more representative of the communities they serve - implement programs to retain and attract teachers of color
  - removing the special ed funding cap

- ensuring a supportive learning environment - ban isolation and restrict restraint (verbiage is an issue in bill passing)
- student-centered funding system as opposed to teacher-centered funding system

### **ELAC Updates**

- Living Wage Proviso - pay early learning providers more, form a study to know what is needed
- SB 5774 - Opening more DCYF offices in rural areas to host fingerprinting, background checks

### **Communications Outlook**

*Eliza Craig, WSWC Communications & Outreach Coordinator*

- Women MAKING History Month
- Reach has expanded greatly through social media
- Social Media strategy: Uplift work and bring awareness to issues
  - Goal is 70% engaging lighthearted, fun, informational content, 30% call to action / serious message
- Goals: 1000 followers on Instagram by the end of 2024
- Refresh/Reactivate our X page - timely engagement with constituents
- Relaunch quarterly newsletter
- Improve accessibility on our website/social media

### **AAUW Overview**

- Founded in 1881 by women's college graduates to encourage women's higher education
- Research women's education and work experiences, workplace sexual harassment, occupational segregation
- Funding to programs and grantees, scholarships
- Advocacy - pay transparency, pay equity
- Bipartisan organization - but take stand on issues with gender equity lens, educating voters, importance of down-ballot issues
- Extensive research on the pay gap - broken down into legislative district (largest in Seattle area due to tech jobs), STEM fields
- Host Lobby Week - HB5424 (flexible work hours for WA police force)
- 25 Branches in the State of Washington, not many in Central/Eastern WA

### **Updates from the Commission Chair**

*Commission Chair Quinn Dalan*

- For the Good of the Order: Statutory Direction, Bylaws
  - Need to consider the limitations and benefits of proposal
- Use government emails - if passwords reset, contact IT to get it fixed
  - Grateful farewell wishes to Commissioners Indapure and Perreira as April plenary marks their last meeting as Commissioners
  - Thanked for years of service as Commissioners

### **Agenda for Next Meeting**

Commissioner Indapure moves to adjourn.

Commissioner Simons seconds

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:54 by Quinn Dalan.  
The next general meeting will be on August 8-.

Minutes submitted by: Erin Beck