



Plenary Meeting Minutes | October 17, 2024

10:00am-4:00pm | Vancouver WA

Attendees:

- Commission Chair Dalan
- Commission Vice-Chair Lowe [virtual]
- Commission Secretary Carrillo
- Commissioner King-Lowe
- Commissioner Razaia
- Commissioner Ford
- Maria Siguenza [virtual]
- Leah White, WSWC Deputy Director
- Eliza Craig, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
- Tanzania Zenzali-Marshall, Program Manager: Interagency Coordination
- Erin Beck, Executive Assistant

External Speakers:

- Lola Flores, Senior Policy Advisor Civil Rights & Racial Justice
- Representative Jamila Taylor

Members of the Public:

- Kate Allred

Opening

The Fall Plenary meeting of the Washington State Women's Commission was called to order at 10:09am on October 17 in the Workforce SW Office in Vancouver, WA by Commissioner Dalan.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Razaia.

Seconded by Commissioner Carrillo.

Approval of Minutes

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

Motion by Commissioner Ford.

Seconded by Commissioner King-Lowe.

Director's Report by Acting ED Maria Siguenza

- Reported onboarding a new FTE, will be fully staffed with a second new FTE in November
- Budget Review
- Acting Director Maria Siguenza will have a 60%/40% split between CHA/WSWC

- Will be cancelling the November Activate 3.8 Messaging Campaign stop and pick up in March for the event in Olympia. Wanting to be intentional with getting new staff on board and with local partnerships.
- Will be discussing the Strategic Plan later in the agenda.

Introduction of New Commissioners and Staff

Public Comment

- Kate Allred - recent college grad with interest in women's issues and joining out of interest

Commissioners & Communities Updates

- PRAMS - survey for women post-pregnancy, American Indian Health Service working to develop a survey that works better for the Indian Healthcare Delivery System, adjusting questions, goal to get 200 women to participate
- Medicaid bills - making sure providers are signed up correctly, especially in the rural areas
- Dress for Success clientele asking for programming for women's entrepreneurship - leadership skills or starting businesses
 - Women Who Inspire event in March
 - Action Item: Connect to Office of Regulatory Innovation and Assistance under the Office of the Governor focuses on small business
 - Small Business Liaison Team
 - Balancing multi-generational expectations
- Return-to-work policies disproportionately effecting women, especially BIPOC and single mothers
 - Working with corporate partners to look at the impacts that would be unfriendly to women
- Rep Kristine Reeves is looking into the gap in transportation access for children in the foster care system
 - Uber trying to stand up a pilot program for teens who are just about to transition out of the foster care system
 - Hop-Skip-Drive contract with school systems and daycares - have launched partnerships with state governments
 - Uber grants program
- Through ELAC working on a grant with OSPI to serve children and families with disabilities in the public education system, partner with OEO and/or Team Child
 - For the gap BEFORE children enter into the public education system
 - Working with regional orgs in communities
- Doulas for All Coalition working to get doulas recognized within the medical field
 - Reimbursement through Medicaid that will start in January - getting self-employed doulas to get registered through the Dept of Health
- OWMBE doing presentations in English and in Spanish in central WA for help on how to start a business and starting in-home daycares (partnering with DCYF)
- Bill to change the legislation for home daycare providers needing an associate's degree
- Workforce Development working on transparency bill - not needing unnecessary classes in post secondary education, especially for entry-level positions - putting together clinics to get women in higher paying positions
 - Breaking down barriers to support people (mostly women) in the healthcare field and provide wrap-around services and support systems
- WIC - approved foods list is Eurocentric. Getting new foods on the list is a multi-year process.

- Tribal communities on douglas, traditional medicine, and WIC - working with insurance carriers to establish billing practices. Working on attestation process where different communities can attest to the fact that certain people have the credentials to be a traditional healer.
 - Looking especially in rural areas to contract with tribal and native-owned businesses.

Lola Flores, Senior Policy Advisor

- Preparing for the upcoming session - working on decision packets
- Exec cabinet meeting this week to discuss budget
- Governor's budget is usually out mid/early December
- Request legislation - one and only agency in her portfolio to have requested legislation
 - Lola has approved our ask to add solicit to our RCW
 - OFM counterpart does still have to look through it and approve it
- Health Disparities Council has asked to include WSWC as part of the council
 - Hasn't been updated since we and the LGBTQ commission were created in 2018 and beyond
- Question: Can commissioners sit on the specific councils where WSWC has a seat- ex. ELAC, Health Disparities?
 - Answer: Yes, at the Executive Director's discretion.
- Question: What is the process of appointing/asking commissioners to serve on councils and what is the process to remove them? Add this as a policy for the Women's Commission?
- Transition - come November, we will have an official transition team.
 - Working on transition docs, outlining programs that will continue.
- Decision packages -
 - Department of Commerce
 - Community reinvestment program - intends to reinvest dollars from cannabis into BIPOC communities. Apply for this money through the department of commerce.
 - Office of firearm safety & violence prevention
 - Small business resiliency network
 - More information about the department of commerce's VOCA funding
 - Office of the Attorney General
 - Focus on food initiative - food banks through the state, how this is distributed, establishing a bigger program for food security in the state
 - Farm to school program - focus on BIPOC community in agriculture in rural settings

Updates from the Commission Chair

- Plenary meetings on Saturdays as opposed to weekdays?
- Winter Plenary options [virtual] - Friday, January 10
- Spring Plenary options - Thursday/Friday March 6-7
 - Depends on Legislators' availability and other events planned
 - Activate 3.8 event on March 8?? (International Women's Day is 3/8 = 3.8)
- Summer Plenary options - June 13, 20, 21? or 27
 - Port Townsend / Port Angeles
- Fall Plenary options [virtual] - Friday, October 17
- Officer elections - email to Commissioners to ask for interest in officer positions and then schedule an ad hoc meeting for elections of Executive Committee
 - Commissioner Dalan will be rolling off as Chair
 - Commissioner Lowe

Strategic Plan Discussion

- Diversity and Inclusion is not called out as a specific value because it is addressed throughout
- Changed "Assisting" to "Connecting" as discussed at the Summer Plenary
- Living document that can be updated as needed
- Mission was created with the inaugural class of Commissioners
 - Conversation to add "and girls" to the mission
- "Women" is a gender expansive term
- Racial justice is not specifically called out
 - Included in the RCW
 - Add a link to the RCW under the mission
 - Include last sentence from the RCW before the goals section
- Add Strategic Plan ratification to the ad hoc meeting
 - Changes discussed will be updated and sent out via email
 - Commissioners will email staff with any other changes before the meeting

Representative Jamila Taylor

- Keep Our Care Act (5241) - did not pass last year, will get a new bill number in 2025
 - A version will be coming back, Rep Taylor plans to be the House sponsor
 - Hospital mergers - costs
 - Preservation of services
- Federal bills that are related to child support
- Court unification - different processes and services
 - Ensuring similarities, not many public interest attorneys available to travel
 - Creating a multi-year commission to make recommendations
- Budget Provisos - listening to communities and what funding is needed to be preserved
 - Plans to carry WSWC's ARL to add "to solicit" to the RCW Currently waiting for the green light from the Governor's Office
- Girl Scout Day at the Capitol along with a broader Day of the Girl
- Questions:
 - Paid Parent Caregiver (2184) Updates?
 - Housing, Workforce, Special Education, Access to Services/Civil Rights
 - Parent can be a paid caregiver once children become 18. Wanting to include minors as well.
 - What support will be needed from WSWC?
 - Commissioners going back to networks and constituency groups reporting out what bills WSWC has as priorities - can sign in with personal capacity or through Commissioner roles
 - Girl Scout Day can maybe do lunch & learn or a way to meet Commissioners
 - International Day of the Girl is in October, but targeting March for the Girl Scouts event

Next Meeting

- Winter Plenary meeting will be fully virtual on Friday, January 10.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Razzaia motions to adjourn.

Commissioner King-Lowe seconds.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm by Commissioner Dalan.