



**September 28, 2021 (via Webex)
Meeting Minutes**

Members in Attendance

Rhonda Jones, Chair
Jessica Epps, Vice Chair
Pam Guzzone, Secretary
Mae Beale
Farida Guzdar
Diane Paulus
Kashonna Holland
Maxine Kellman-Allen
Jessica Nichols
Elizabeth Oyebode
Phyllis Zolotorow

Members Absent

Staff Present

Stephanie Adibe, Executive Secretary

Guests Present

Dr. Calvin Ball, County Executive
Jackie Scott, Director, Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services
Jennifer Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff to Dr. Ball

Call to Order

With a quorum present, the Howard County Commission for Women meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Special Guests & Presentation

The Chair introduced Dr. Ball who shared his appreciation and support for the member of the Commission and the efforts it has undertaken in providing a voice to the women and children in the County, especially those who have been impacted by the pandemic.

As Chair, Rhonda then shared a summary of the Commission's priorities, activities, and accomplishments from FY21 with the County Executive and our other visitors.

Jackie Scott then shared the County's focus items for FY22 for the Department of Community Resources and Services and possible areas for the Commission on Women to play a role. These included support for childcare and its workforce, challenges around access to childcare, human trafficking, labor trafficking, and domestic violence. Jackie also shared that she would like to build coordination across commissions, as well

as increase awareness and visibility to the annual activities that the Department undertakes (Thanksgiving and Christmas food distributions, etc).

Approval of June Minutes

Motion to approve the June minutes was made by Mae, seconded by Phyllis. Motion approved.

Chair's Report

- The Chair used her time to share a new business item: A request from the Women's Giving Circle to work with them on a report they are developing on the State of Women in Howard County. Unfortunately, no representative from the Women's Giving Circle was able to attend the meeting to discuss specifics. We will connect the WGC to the Maryland Commission for Women for some of their data needs.

Vice Chair Report

- Jessica shared about the Commissions work partnership with the Human Traffic Prevention and Coordinating Council. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and we will be partnering with the Council on its social media awareness campaign. The campaign will include messaging that notes the Commission's partnership role

Executive Secretary's Report

- Stephanie shared that the County is updating the logos for Commissions and Boards. She will ensure that the Commission's new logo is developed in a timely manner
- Stephanie also polled the members on how we'd like to proceed with meetings – virtual or in person – in the new year. Commission members felt that staying with virtual at least until the spring would be our preference.
- She also reminded us of the Coat Drive in October as well as food distribution events in November and December.

Old Business

- See notes above from Chair's report

New Business

- Young Women's "So She Did Too" event. Initially there was a request to push this out to the spring of next year. However, shortly after the meeting, Stephanie shared that it was imperative to do this before the end of the calendar year. The chair set a date for a special meeting to discuss and plan this event.
- Date FY22 goal setting
- Next full Commission meeting scheduled for November 9, 2021

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Submitted by Pam Guzzone