

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite #1034, Miami, FL 33128
Minutes of Meeting of April 24, 2013

Present: Nordis Alvarez, Leah Blumenfeld, Marie Eloi, Viviana Jordan, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Michelle Dunaj Lucking, Francesca Menes, Beverly Nixon, Grace O'Donnell, Eveline Pierre, Marie Woodson, Mara Zapata, and Dona Zemo

Excused: Samia Taouloust Malik, Rhonda Pinkney-Wimberly, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, Barbara Schwartz, and Grace Signorelli

Guests: Jersey Garcia from MI LOLA; Erika Cordova from MI LOLA; Maribel Balbin from the League of Women Voters; Margaret Hall from the Miami Gardens Commission for Women

Staff: Laura Morilla

Chairwoman Michelle Dunaj Lucking commenced the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Michelle welcomed everyone and everyone introduced themselves. Nordis Alvarez is our new member, appointed by Commissioner Dennis Moss.

Francesca moved to approve the agenda and Dona seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **agenda was approved.**

Mara moved to approve the minutes of 03/27/13 and Marie Woodson seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.**

Next there was a presentation by Jersey Garcia, the president and co-founder of MI LOLA. MI LOLA is a women's health rights organization and advocates for reproductive justice. Reproductive Justice means the human right to have the children that a woman wants, the human right to not have children, and the human right to raise the children in a safe environment. MI LOLA is a volunteer organization, and Jersey works as a consultant to the Health Foundation of South Florida helping HIV patients. MI LOLA does the following activities: advocates for laws and systems and is following the Medicaid debate in Tallahassee; supports the expansion of Medicaid; encourages women to be civically engaged; and creates spaces where women can talk about sexual and reproductive health issues without being judged. Jersey asked the CFW to help MI LOLA in being a voice for women and also said that MI LOLA is looking for space to have these women's chats and events.

Then the **Committee Reports** were presented.

Marie Eloi reviewed the written report of the Events Committee regarding the June 10th Equal Pay Act reception. The letters went out to potential sponsors but we need more suggestions from everyone about sponsors. There will be an admission fee of \$20. The CFW will send letters to all the Commissioners requesting allocations. Marie and Laura visited the Hyatt Regency Miami and the reception will be held in the Brickell Room. Volunteers will be needed for the registration table. Viviana researched the different sites for accepting online payment. Marie Woodson then moved to adopt the Committee report. Sharon seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Maribel Balbin, president of the League of Women Voters, said that the League has paypal on its website and can offer payment through the website. She said that the League has discretionary funds for educational events

and that the League will promote the event. Maribel recommended “square up” to accept donations for events.

Nordis reported that the board of the Women’s Chamber of Commerce agreed to be a co-sponsor and that she will take all this information back to the board to see what level of sponsorship they are willing to donate. She also said that the Women’s Chamber has the capability to accept credit cards at the event and that the administrator can sit at the registration table.

For the Communications Committee, Grace reviewed the written report. The Committee recommends that the CFW publish the Connections Directory but not as many as the last time; either 500 or 750 this time. The Committee will meet again soon.

For the Legislative Committee, Michelle reported on the letter that the CFW sent to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation setting forth the CFW’s positions on various issues. Francesca mentioned the alimony revision bill and the fact that the focus now changes to get the Governor to veto the bill. The wage theft and sick days preemption bills are still pending and viable. None of the abortion bills have seen much action and there has been no action on the ERA bill and bill regarding unemployment compensation for domestic violence victims.

For the report of the Human Trafficking Committee, Michelle explained that several CFW members toured the B.E.S.T. Outreach Center in Coconut Grove. Grace O’Donnell and Sharon reported on their visit. B.E.S.T. does trainings for lawyers and people who want to be counselors for victims of human trafficking. The training will be free for CFW members, and anyone who is interested should give Laura her name to pass on to Linda Sullivan at B.E.S.T.

Under **Old Business**, the CFW held its election of officers. The slate recommend by the Nominating Committee is: Michelle Dunaj Lucking for Chair; Marie Woodson for First Vice Chair; Francesca Menes for Second Vice Chair; and Sharon Kendrick-Johnson for Member at Large. Following the rules set forth in the Bylaws, Michelle opened the floor for nominations for Chair. There were no nominations from the floor. Dona moved to elect Michelle as Chair and Grace O’Donnell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Michelle opened the floor for nominations for First Vice Chair and there were no nominations. Dona moved to elect Marie Woodson as First Vice Chair and Sharon seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Michelle opened the floor for nominations for Second Vice Chair and there were no nominations. Marie Woodson moved to elect Francesca as Second Vice Chair and Mara seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Michelle opened the floor for nominations for Member at Large and there were no nominations. Francesca moved to elect Sharon as Member at Large and Marie Woodson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The CFW members then reported on their attendance at various community events. Michelle talked about the recent Women in Combat panel discussion and her attendance at CRB meetings. Grace attended the Girl Scouts’ Girls Night Out event at Fisher Island and the Victim Rights luncheon. Marie Eloi served on an immigration reform panel with members of Congress and traveled to Tallahassee last week to advocate for Medicaid expansion. Marie Woodson attended a Women’s Chamber luncheon last month where Eveline was the guest speaker. Eveline has been serving on panels and traveling. Francesca and Marie Woodson attended the ASPA Women’s History Month reception. Mara and Linda attended the Foster Parents Assoc. luncheon.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Laura Morilla
Recorder