

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite #1034, Miami, FL 33128
Minutes of Meeting of June 26, 2013

Present: Leah Blumenfeld, Marie Eloi, Monica Interian, Viviana Jordan, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Michelle Dunaj Lucking, Samia Taoulost Malik, Francesca Menes, Beverly Nixon, Grace O'Donnell, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, and Grace Signorelli

Excused: Nordis Alvarez, Eveline Pierre, Rhonda Pinkney-Wimberly, Marie Woodson, Mara Zapata, and Dona Zemo

Guests: Maria Hidalgo Diaz from Vitas Innovative Hospice Care

Staff: Laura Morilla

Chairwoman Michelle Dunaj Lucking commenced the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Michelle welcomed everyone and everyone introduced themselves.

First there was a presentation by Maria Hidalgo Diaz from Vitas Innovative Hospice Care. Maria generally talked about the importance of hospice care and how it helps the patient and the patient's family. She explained that Vitas provides a multidisciplinary team to the patient. The patient is in control and a plan of care is developed. Maria explained that there is a 1982 Medicare Hospice Benefit Law that provides 100% coverage for equipment, medicine, etc. Vitas also works with Medicaid and with the Alliance for Aging. Vitas is getting ready for the launch of healthcare.gov and the healthcare exchanges that will start later this year. Vitas works with HMOs, insurance plans and hospitals.

Vitas started 35 years ago in Miami and now has 54 programs in 18 states. Most of the hospice patients have cancer, and a lot have Alzheimer's. Two doctors have to qualify the patient for hospice care; patients are evaluated after 90 days and then again after 60 days. The patient needs a place to live where hospice comes in to provide the care. Hospice is not a "place" but a "service."

Maria is part of the Health Council of South Florida, which has developed a white paper on the safety net for Miami-Dade County. She also suggested that the CFW work with the following organizations on elder and health issues: Alliance for Aging; Florida Dept. of Health; Consortium for a Healthy Miami-Dade; Mayor's Initiative for Aging; and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

After Maria's presentation Michelle briefly mentioned a case involving a friend of Rhonda Wimberly's who has had problems with elder guardian issues and financial abuse. The person is following up on getting legislation introduced in the Florida Legislature regarding the problem.

At this point there was a quorum. Michelle then finished with the CFW member introductions and mentioned that a staff person from the Ethics Commission will be attending the next CFW meeting.

Linda moved to approve the agenda and Sharon seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **agenda was approved.**

Sharon moved to approve the minutes of 05/22/13 and Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.**

The **Committee Reports** were presented.

Events & Fundraising Committee. Laura gave a brief financial update about the revenue and expenses from the June 10th Equal Pay Act 50th anniversary reception.

Communications Committee. Grace announced that the committee will meet soon to discuss several matters relating to the publication of the Connections Directory.

Legislative Committee. Kit reported that Governor Scott did sign House Bill 655, the bill preempting cities and counties from enacting paid sick ordinances. Francesca reported that the immigration bill is coming up for a vote in the U.S. Senate soon and that she is part of a coalition that is viewing the immigration issue through the lens of women. The coalition is called “We Belong Together.” This matter will be put on the agenda for the next CFW meeting as part of the Legislative Committee report.

Under **Old Business**, Michelle mentioned doing follow-up to the meeting she, Mara and Laura had with Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa. Michelle briefly reviewed the notes from the meeting. Mara can provide some more details because she has had a couple of conversations with Chairwoman Sosa since the meeting, but Mara is not present so this item will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Michelle reported that she recently had conversations with Chief Judge Bertila Soto and other women judges who are willing to help with the project.

Under **New Business**, Laura reported on the meeting that she had with Joanne Hyppolite, the chief curator at HistoryMiami, on June 13th. Also present were Noreen Timoney of the Miami Woman’s Club, Linda Hertz from The Villagers, Penny Lambeth, and Dolly MacIntyre from the Dade Federation of Women’s Clubs and the Dade Heritage Trust. The purpose of the meeting was to make suggestions for the inclusion of more women’s history in the exhibits, especially when HistoryMiami expands its space. There will be more future meetings.

Laura reported on the planned activity for Women’s Equality Day at the Women’s Park. The event is planned for August 24th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and would be a voter registration drive and a panel discussion on election laws. The League of Women Voters and the Miami-Dade Parks/Women’s Park would be co-sponsors. Kit moved that the CFW co-sponsor the event. Grace seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Michelle briefly mentioned the Wine, Women, and Wisdom event suggested by Bradley Rosen. Mr. Rosen is a financial planner on Miami Beach who has made presentations about women and finances and was also a sponsor of the Equal Pay Act 50th anniversary reception. Mr. Rosen is supposed to provide more details.

Michelle reported that she recently attended a meeting of a Broward women’s coalition. The group wants to establish a non-partisan coalition to work on common issues. There will be ongoing discussions.

Michelle reported that the first planning meeting for the 2014 In the Company of Women reception is on July 1.

As far as attending community events, Michelle reported that she also attended the League of Women Voters’ annual meeting event and a Law Day event at the Hialeah Courthouse.

Under **Announcements**, Grace Signorelli announced that the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s office has the highest statewide collection rate of child support. There was also a brief mention of the Grand Jury Report on sex trafficking that just came out and Grace said that she would try to get a copy.

Maria Hidalgo Diaz invited CFW members to appear as guests on her radio program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Laura Morilla, Recorder