

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**  
**111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 1034, Miami, FL 33128**  
**Minutes of Meeting of November 19, 2014**

- Present:** Leah Blumenfeld, Marie Eloi, Monica Interian, Sharon Kendrick Johnson, Noreen Lagault Mendoza, Beverly Nixon, Linda Robinson, Raisa Sequeira, Marie Woodson, Mara Zapata, and Dona Zemo
- Excused:** Nordis Alvarez, Viviana Jordan, Michelle Dunaj Lucking, Francesca Menes, Eveline Pierre, Kit Rafferty, Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins, and Rhonda Wimberly
- Staff:** Laura Morilla
- Guests:** County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, former County Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Elizabeth Pines from the Florida COSW, Alejandra Moreno from the Doral COSW, Jude Bruno from the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission, Jeannette Garcia-Amodeo from the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission, member of the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission, Member of the NOW campus affiliate at Miami-Dade College InterAmerican Campus, Former CFW member Gerri Rocker, Pinecrest Councilwoman Cherri Ball, and Cutler Bay Councilwoman Sue Loyzelle

Chairwoman Mara Zapata commenced the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Mara welcomed everyone and recognized the elected officials. Mara also recognized Elizabeth Pines from the Florida COSW. The meeting was held at the Palmetto Bay Branch Library.

First there was a **presentation** by Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.

Commissioner Levine Cava welcomed everyone to Palmetto Bay and stated that she was glad that the Commission for Women was having its meeting in Palmetto Bay. The Commissioner talked about the possibility of having Miami-Dade County adopt a local version of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW is an international women's rights treaty that has never been ratified by the U.S. San Francisco is one of the cities that has adopted CEDAW locally and there is a growing movement to get 100 cities to adopt local CEDAWs by 2016.

In the cases where cities have adopted local CEDAWs, like San Francisco and Los Angeles, the Commissions for Women in those cities have been given the responsibility of overseeing the implementation. There already are some aspects of this in place in Miami-Dade County and the County Attorney has made some suggestions. The Commissioner mentioned that in potential legislation, perhaps the Commission Auditor can be asked to report annually on gender equity and can assist because of the lack of resources by the CFW. The Commissioner believes that the CEDAW monitoring role would be consistent with the CFW's mission but perhaps language can be added to this more mandatory. And maybe the County's Commission on Human Rights can also help with enforcement. Commissioner Levine Cava said that she would be pleased to sponsor any ordinance that would expand the CFW's authority. She also reviewed some resolutions that the County has already passed that already address some gender equity topics.

The CFW then discussed what the role of the CFW would be and who would do the research. The Commissioner suggested that there could be a workshop with the CFW, the County Attorney and the Commission Auditor to explore this further. Mara asked that this matter be on the agenda for the January meeting when more members are present and there is more time for discussion.

Next there was a presentation by the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission about its Women's Leadership Conference being held in March 2015 for Women's History Month. Representing the Youth Commission were intern Jude Bruno and several Commission members. This year the Youth Commission has more time to plan and is asking for help and input. Part of the conference will include a panel with the five women County Commissioners, five women School Board members, three Congresswomen, and the Florida Education Commissioner. Jude said that sponsorship entails helping to promote the event and assisting in getting women speakers for the panels. There was a lot of interest in the matter from the public and Jude also answered several questions. There is strong support from the CFW and the CFW will take this matter up again in January when there is a quorum.

At this point Mara asked all the CFW members to introduce themselves. Then after that all the members in the audience introduced themselves.

At 6:25 p.m. the **Florida COSW's Community Conversation** commenced, with Florida COSW member Elizabeth Pines facilitating the conversation. The Community Conversation ended at 7:35 p.m. The report of the Communication Conversation is attached to these minutes.

During the Community Conversation, one more CFW members arrived so now there was a quorum and the CFW resumed the regular board meeting.

Leah moved to approve the minutes of the CFW meeting of 09/17/14 and Marie Woodson seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.**

Monica moved to amend the minutes of the CFW meeting of 10/22/14 to take out the statement that Marcia Olivo is a survivor of domestic violence. Monica then moved to approve the minutes as amended and Linda Robinson seconded the motion. The **minutes as amended were approved.**

Linda moved that the CFW co-sponsor the Youth Commission's Women's Leadership Conference in March 2015. Marie Woodson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

The **Committee Reports** were presented.

**Legislative Committee.** Leah will be calling a meeting of the Legislative Committee in early January 2015.

**Human Trafficking Committee.** Linda reported that she attended the meeting of the South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force last Friday in the Homeland Security Office in Doral. There were about 150 people there

Under **Old Business**, Mara reminded everyone that the "Brave Miss World" movie screening is tomorrow November 20<sup>th</sup> at FIU.

Regarding the In the Company of Women 2015 awards and event, the CFW has been asked to once again co-sponsor the event and the CFW members reviewed the different sponsorship levels. Beverly moved that the CFW donate \$1500. Marie Woodson seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The Selection Committee meeting is on 12/03/14.

At this point CFW members gave their donations to Sharon for the homeless women at the Homestead Homeless Assistance Center.

Going back to the discussion about the Commissioner's CEDAW presentation, Mara would like more time to review the materials in order to have a good, thorough discussion. This will be on the agenda for the January 2015 meeting.

**Attendance at community events.** Noreen thanked the CFW for sponsoring the Geekiwood event. Of the 200 attendees, 100 attended for free. It went very well and FIU wants to do it again next year.

Raisa attended the "Leading Ladies" mixer by AAUW last Saturday.

Mara attended a fundraiser for "Someone's Child" recently that addresses human trafficking. It was a great event and she met a woman who is interested in serving on the CFW and will be appointed as a result of a vacancy.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Laura Morilla, Recorder