

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**  
**111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 1034, Miami, FL 33128**  
**Minutes of Meeting of March 26, 2015**

**Present:** Clora Adkins, Leah Blumenfeld, Monica Interian, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Noreen Lagault Mendoza, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, Raisa Sequeira, and Mara Zapata

**Excused:** Nordis Alvarez, Viviana Jordan, Francesca Menes, Beverly Nixon, Eveline Pierre, Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins, Marie Woodson, and Dona Zemo

**Absent:** Marie Eloi

**Guests:** Laurie Scop from Partners for Self Employment and MUJER

**Staff:** Laura Morilla

Chair Mara Zapata commenced the meeting at 5:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

First, the **Committee Reports** were presented.

**Executive Committee.** Mara reviewed the written report about the meeting with Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava regarding the CEDAW initiative. Mara also reported that Adele from the Commissioner's office is meeting with Laura tomorrow to discuss possible next steps in the local CEDAW implementation. Mara mentioned that Adele also brought up the idea of the CFW possibly partnering with the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County for advocacy. Kit suggested a meeting with Fran Katz from the Women's Fund and Mara asked Laura to contact Fran to see if she wants to come to a CFW meeting.

**Events and Fundraising Committee.** Sharon reviewed the written committee report. The scholarship application was finalized and disseminated to the students at the YWPA. The application deadline is May 1.

**Legislative Committee.** Leah reviewed the written report of the committee meeting of March 2. She gave a quick update that another set of guardianship bills had been filed, SB 1226 and HB 1225, and that SB 1096 never got a companion bill filed. Kit mentioned that new bill SB 1318 would make wage theft a crime and suggested that it also be included in the letter that the CFW sends to the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation. Since there was a quorum of the Executive Committee present-Mara, Leah, and Sharon, the Executive Committee could vote to send the letter to the Legislative Delegation. Mara moved to send the letter and Sharon seconded the motion. The Executive Committee approved the motion.

The Legislative Committee also recommended that the CFW members visit the Homeless Assistance Center near downtown. Laura mentioned that she had recently been in a meeting with the Director of the Miami-Dade County Corrections Dept., who is a woman, and had asked her about the CFW visiting the jail where most of the women inmates are housed. The CFW wants to do both and Laura will follow up.

**Old Business.** Mara gave a brief recap of the In the Company of Women reception. Mara also reminded everyone that the CFW is a co-sponsor of the April 11<sup>th</sup> Young Women's Leadership Symposium. The CFW is entitled to send one representative but after the registration deadline is over the CFW may be able to send more people.

Laura reported that the Casa Valentina event scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> has been moved to November 5<sup>th</sup>. The CFW is a supporter and the CFW logo and information is supposed to be included in the program book.

**New Business.** The CFW discussed Viviana's email suggesting that the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting be an on the road meeting in West Kendall. Viviana has spoken to Commissioner Juan Zapata and he is eager for the CFW to have a meeting in West Kendall. One possible venue is the West Kendall Library. The CFW agreed to have the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting in West Kendall. Laura reported that the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room is not available on September 30<sup>th</sup> so perhaps that meeting should be an on the road meeting too. Mara then suggested the Rebeca Sosa Theater in Miami Springs or the Miami-Dade College Inter American Campus in Little Havana. Mara also asked the CFW members for venue suggestions for future on the road meetings.

Laura explained that Linda, Noreen, and Laura are going to the Coordinated Victims' Assistance Center (CVAC) on March 30<sup>th</sup> for Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava's "work day" there.

Laura explained that BCC Chairman Jean Monestime has created a Council for Prosperity Initiatives with himself, Commissioner Barbara Jordan, and Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava as members. The CFW will be monitoring any meetings, etc. because of the impact of poverty on women and because one way to address poverty is to improve the economic situation of women.

Noreen raised the issue of women and the gaming industry and the death threats that those women have been getting; it is basically cyber bullying of women. Noreen suggested that the CFW have a day seminar on women's image in the media. Monica will call a meeting of the Domestic Violence Committee to address this.

**Attendance at Community Events.** Linda said that she went to New York City this month and that the hotel she stayed at had an envelope in the room for the tip for the housekeeper. She sent a picture of the envelope to Laura.

Laura reported that she, Marie Woodson, and Raisa spoke at the Women's History Month symposium at the Young Women's Preparatory Academy.

Raisa reported that she spoke at the YWPA event and that she attended a women's event at the Miami-Dade College Kendall Campus and a women's conference at FIU. She also reported that a UN Women-FIU Chapter was just established.

Clora said that she attended a women's entrepreneurial event at the Miami-Dade College Hialeah Campus and an HIV/AIDS educational event. She also had a meeting with Victor Williams and a Miami Gardens Commissioner about human trafficking. Clora explained that Victor wants to have an educational campaign for small hotels.

**Announcements.** Linda said that the Human Trafficking Committee would be meeting soon.

Laurie Scop, a guest at the meeting, talked about a project that the WMN Miami/Younger Women's Taskforce is doing. The group is starting an initiative to help homeless women get the necessary feminine hygiene products. Laurie said that she could also make a presentation about the services that MUJER offers.

Monica asked Mara to explain a bit about the Guardian Ad litem program and Mara talked about some of her experiences serving as a guardian.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Laura Morilla  
Recorder