

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**  
**111 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 1034, Miami, FL 33128**  
**Minutes of Meeting of April 22, 2015**

**Present:** Clora Adkins, Leah Blumenfeld, Monica Interian, Viviana Jordan, Noreen Lagault Mendoza, Beverly Nixon, Kit Rafferty, Linda Robinson, Raissa Sequeira, and Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins

**Excused:** Nordis Alvarez, Marie Eloi, Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Francesca Menes, Marie Woodson, Mara Zapata, and Dona Zemo

**Absent:** Eveline Pierre

**Guests:** Marilyn March and Mary Andrews from The Women's Fund of Miami-Dade; Tara Leighton

**Staff:** Laura Morilla

Second Vice Chair Viviana Jordan commenced the meeting at 5:40 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

First there was a **Presentation** by Marilyn March and Mary Andrews of The Women's Fund of Miami-Dade. The Women's Fund was founded by Marilyn Gladstone in 1993. In its first year The Women's Fund gave out \$1000 to five women's organizations and since then it has awarded \$3.1 million in grants to many women's and girls' organizations. A lot of well-known non-profits started out as grantees of The Women's Fund; Lotus House and Casa Valentina are two examples. The Women's Fund holds several fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for these grants; the most well-known is the annual Power of the Purse luncheon. The Women's Fund focuses a lot of attention on the issue of preventing violence against women.

The Women's Fund is looking to collaborate with other organizations and is part of three coalitions: the Freedom from Violence Group that meets once a month at the YWCA; the Girls' Coalition; and the Human Trafficking Coalition. The Women's Fund has a Young Professionals Group and a Youth Board and is starting a "See Jane Vote" initiative to get more women out to vote. Besides giving out grants, The Women's Fund does four roundtables every year for grantees to teach them about marketing, legal services, etc.

Marilyn said that The Women's Fund would love to help the CFW with the CEDAW initiative in Miami-Dade County. Linda moved that the CFW partner with The Women's Fund on the initiative to implement CEDAW in Miami-Dade County and the "See Jane Vote" initiative. Kit seconded the motion, and **the motion passed.**

At this point there was a quorum.

Phyllis moved to approve the agenda and Monica seconded the motion. The motion passed and **the agenda was approved.**

Phyllis moved to approve the minutes of the CFW meetings of 02/25/15 and 03/26/15 and Leah seconded the motion. The motion passed and the **minutes were approved.**

The **Committee Reports** were then presented.

**Legislative Committee.** Leah reported that the CFW's letter to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation was sent out. Leah then gave updates about some of the pending bills: the 24-hour waiting period for abortion passed the House today and there has been no action on the other two abortion bills; the alimony bill has passed several Senate committees but there have been no votes in the House yet; there has been no action on the minimum wage bill or the unemployment compensation for DV victims bill; Florida Kidcare passed a Senate

Committee but no progress in the House; the bill increasing penalties for a third violation of a DV injunction is moving forward; the pregnancy amendment to the Florida Civil Rights Act passed the Senate today and the House will vote tomorrow; the bathroom bills likely will not pass; and the guardianship bills have already passed the House and are moving through committees in the Senate.

**Events and Fundraising Committee.** Viviana explained that the application deadline for the scholarships for the Young Women's Preparatory Academy (YWPA) is May 1. No applications have been received yet but the YWPA staff advised that the students are gathering the information to submit the applications.

**Human Trafficking Committee.** Linda reviewed the written report and explained that she is trying to contact Kathy Fernandez Rundle to get her input on how the CFW can help. Linda said that her feeling is that the CFW needs to do the outreach for the whole county. Laura explained that she did inquire about a human trafficking awareness training program for airport employees and that she will ask Wendy Kallergis about a training for hotel employees when she meets with Wendy in the near future about another matter.

Phyllis moved that the CFW approve all three committee reports and Beverly seconded the motion. **The motion passed and the committee reports were approved.**

**Old Business.** Viviana reported that the May 27<sup>th</sup> CFW meeting will be on the road in West Kendall. She has been working with Commissioner Zapata's staff to secure a venue and the meeting will be held at the Kendale Lakes Branch Library in the auditorium.

Vivian advised everyone that the visit to the Metro West Detention Center will be on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Laura gave a brief update on the proposal by Commissioner Daniela Levine Cava to have CEDAW implemented locally in Miami-Dade County. Laura explained that she and Mara attended a meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> with the Commission Auditor, an Assistant County Attorney, and staff from Commissioner Levine Cava's office to discuss and provide input for a proposed ordinance. Laura also taped a TV show with the Commissioner this morning to discuss CEDAW.

Kit said that she talked to Adele on Commissioner Levine Cava's staff about doing CEDAW outreach to different groups. Kit has the Commissioner's approval to do this and she would like to get the CFW's permission to do this outreach also. **The CFW agreed that Kit could go to the different community groups to talk about CEDAW.** Kit also mentioned that the preemption bills that the Florida Legislature has passed recently may have an impact on how much can get done in Miami-Dade County.

Linda and Noreen briefly talked about Commissioner Levine Cava's "work day" at the Coordinated Victims' Assistance Center (CVAC) in late March. Linda, Noreen, and Laura accompanied the Commissioner for her visit to the CVAC to learn more about the services that CVAC provides.

Viviana stated that Laura has an upcoming meeting with Wendy Kallergis of the Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association to brainstorm and discuss how to get more hotels to participate in "The Envelope Please" Initiative. Monica is helping Laura get a meeting with the Biltmore Hotel's manager. Noreen asked about the issue of tips on cruise ships. Viviana said that tips are usually added to the invoice but that there is an option to remove; plus there are envelopes in the dining rooms, state rooms, etc. so some people leave extra tips too.

**New Business.** Viviana reminded everyone to file the required financial disclosure forms before July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The CFW discussed an Estrella Insurance ad that is on the side of county buses. The ad was brought to the attention of the CFW via an email to Laura. The ad is also in billboards and someone noted that there is a similar ad featuring a man. There was discussion about sending a letter to Estrella Insurance and to the Miami-Dade County Transit Dept. about the offensive nature of the ad that is demeaning to women. The CFW decided to first get information on the Transit Department's rules for approving bus ads. Tara Leighton will help us get that information. Kit moved that the CFW send the letter to Estrella Insurance voicing the CFW's objection to the ad because it is sexist and demeaning to women; women buy insurance too and most women would find something like that degrading. Phyllis seconded the motion, **and the motion passed.** Laura will draft the letter and show it to Kit first.

**Attendance at Community Events.** Laura reported that she and Mara met with the Broward COSW Chair on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Noreen and Monica attended the service for Marie Woodson's mother. This past Saturday Phyllis participated in a neighborhood beautification/painting project in Opa Locka. Raisa attended the LatinasRepresent event at the University of Miami on Monday night. Viviana attended the United Way's Chelsea Clinton breakfast.

**Announcements.** Leah was just elected president of the Florida Political Science Association. Viviana was appointed to the FIU Young Alumni Board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Laura Morilla  
Recorder