



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN MINUTES

March 19th, 2025, 6:00 PM
Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 NW 1st Street, 18-4, Miami, FL 33128

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at **6:00 PM** by **Chairwoman Michelle Abreu**.
Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was confirmed.

Present: Michelle Abreu **Chairwoman**, Lourdes Abadin **Vice Chairwoman**, Clora Adkins, Heather Paschal Binns, Mercedes Carlson, Milagros "Millie" Del Valle **2nd Vice Chair**, Chelsea Granell, Dr. Sharon Kendrick-Johnson, Nadege Vilsaint, Gloria Martinez, Maria Santamaria, Josephine Novo, Lunicel Alvarado, Yumanela Candelaria

Excused Absent: Yvette Ayala, Gabby Carey-Johnson, Elise Gerson, Katherine Leiva, **Member at Large**, Dr. Jacqueline Pena, Yama Paillere, Marie Souerette-Eloi, **Member at Large**

II. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion:** Sharon Kendrick-Johnson motioned to approve the agenda.
- **Second:** Mercedes Carlson seconded the motion.
- **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** Lourdes Abadin motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.
- **Second:** Maria Santamaria seconded the motion.
- **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

The following individuals provided public comments:

- **Ibis** – Director of Engagement from the **Mayor's Office**, expressed that the Mayor's Office is here to support and collaborate on the Commission's efforts.
- **Michelle Johnson** – Representative from the **Mayor's Office**, also shared their commitment to collaboration.
- **Joe Bermudez** – Spoke on **collaboration between the Commission and his R.A.D. self-defense program for women**.
- **DNP Student** – A doctoral nursing student attending upon the recommendation of a **Health and Policy professor** to observe a government board meeting.



- **Dr. Belinda Leon – Interim Executive Director of Women of Tomorrow**, discussed mentorship initiatives and community engagement opportunities.

V. Director's Report

- Expressed gratitude for the **board members' commitment and presence at events**.
- Discussed strategies to **disseminate key data and findings** from the **Status of Women Report**.
- Encouraged board members to **actively participate in outreach efforts**.

VI. Committee Reports

Legislative Committee Report

Chair **Josephine Novo** provided an update on the **March 11, 2025, meeting**, which focused on **enhancing social media outreach strategies** through infographics and short videos to better engage younger audiences. The committee also discussed **improving the CEDAW reporting process**, recommending a shift from annual reporting to a **two- to three-year cycle** to allow time for dissemination, implementation, and impact measurement. Additionally, efforts will be made to **streamline the timeline** between data collection and actionable policy recommendations.

Executive Committee Report

Vice Chair **Lourdes Abadin** provided an update on the **March 19, 2025, meeting at 5:00 PM**. The committee outlined key **goals for 2025**, including **community engagement through on-the-road meetings** and establishing a **metric system to track the effectiveness of public participation efforts**. The committee also discussed potential **fundraising initiatives**, including hosting an annual event at **Thalatta Estate in October** and exploring grants through the **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)**.

VII. Board Updates

Women's Hall of Fame Nominations

The nomination process was finalized, and applications will be **available online soon**. Women across **Miami-Dade County** are encouraged to apply. The **Executive Committee** will review and **shortlist 10 nominees**, which will then be presented to the **full Commission for Women board** for final selection. The board will vote on **no fewer than 5** who will be submitted to the **Board of County Commissioners** for approval.

Scholarship Program

Scholarship **nominations are now open** for the **Young Women's Preparatory Academy** and will remain open until **May**. The **Communications Committee** will then review applications and **select three recipients** using a standardized rubric. Each recipient will receive a **\$1,000 scholarship**. Scholarship winners will be recognized with **certificates at the BCC Meeting on June 17th, 2025**.



Young Women's Preparatory Academy

- **Milagros "Millie" Del Valle** shared her experience attending the YWPA Symposium event, emphasizing its **positive impact on young girls**.
- **Dr. Belinda Leon** proposed collaboration with **Women of Tomorrow** to expand mentorship efforts.
- **Ibis** suggested partnering with **PIOD** to host **Women in STEM expos and events**.
- **Kia Scott** was identified as a potential partner for these efforts.

VIII. Old Business

Women's History Month Events

- Discussed **Gloria Martinez's event** and the **Human Trafficking Forum** with **Commissioner Gonzalez**.
- Proposal to **expand the event to additional districts** by engaging other commissioners.
- **Motion:** Milagros "Millie" Del Valle motioned to hold an **On the Road Meeting** and partner with a district board to host a **Human Trafficking Forum**.
- **Second:** Gloria Martinez seconded the motion.
- **Vote:** Motion passed.
- **Date Confirmed:** The **May 28, 2025, board meeting** will feature a **Human Trafficking Forum in Miami Lakes**.

IX. New Business

Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) Presentation Request

- CITT requested a slot to present on the **People's Transportation Plan and SMART Plan**.
- **Action:** August will send a follow-up email to confirm scheduling.

Guest Speaker Presentations

- **Joe Bermudez (Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami-Dade)** presented on the **R.A.D. Self-Defense Program** and discussed collaboration opportunities.
- **Dr. Belinda Leon (Interim Executive Director, Women of Tomorrow)** provided an overview of the mentorship program and ways to support young women.

X. Announcements & Closing Remarks

- **Next Meeting Date:** April 23, 2025, at **6:30 PM**.
- **Location:** Cutler Ridge Elementary School, in partnership with a **local Girl Scout troop**.
- Board members were encouraged to **invite their children to attend the meeting**.



XI. Adjournment

- **Motion:** Dr. Sharon Kendrick-Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- **Second:** Milagros "Millie" Del Valle seconded the motion.
- **Vote:** Motion passed.
- **Time of Adjournment:** 7:20 PM.