Durham Women’s Commission

October 24, 2017

Meeting Minutes

**Commissioners Present:**

Ruebe Holmes, Zion Tankard, Stephanie Forman, Anna Davis, Vivian Slade, Shauna Johnson, Joy Spencer, Kim Cameron, Brenda Blue, K.D. Ann Walsh, Cecilia Polanco, Milicia Tedder

**Commissioners Absent:** Doreen Johnson

Co-Chair Zion Tankard called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Tara Romano-Hyde Amendment**

Tara Romano was the guest speaker. She explained the mission of NARAL which protects the reproductive health rights of women.

Ms. Romano discussed the origins of the Henry Hyde Amendment which passed in 1976 and limits abortion access. Congressman Henry Hyde was opposed to abortion and supported these limitations on access. The Amendment prohibits Medicaid from covering abortions. This prohibition has expanded to federal employees— those in the military, Peace Corps. In North Carolina, the prohibition against abortion coverage applies to state employees who receive state health insurance. The General Assembly has passed legislation that prevents county and town employees from covering employee abortions, and the Legislature expanded this to insurance companies participating in the ACA.

NARAL is highlighting this issue to help the public understand the inequity of the Hyde Amendment because it disproportionately affects poor women. NARAL wants low-income women to have the same access options as everyone else.

NARAL wants to do work in Durham to help the public understand that this is an economic justice issue. Scenario: Medicaid covers family planning for contraception, but Medicaid users cannot utilize the program for abortion. Low income women raise the money, but we don’t know what else they are giving to raise the money—rent, medications or other necessities.

Ms. Romano will be a guest speaker at the Women’s Commission lunch on November 30.

**Durham Rape Crisis Center--October 26th**-DV Lunch and Learn-Bring your lunch for the free program.

**October 28th-March at Duke-DV Awareness** at 10:00 a.m., March starts at Duke Women’s Center, wear purple, 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m., registration link, $10 per team. Co-Chair Tankard paid this fee on behalf of the Commission.

**Pay Equity Workshop/Dress 4 Success**-The Commission hopes to partner with Dress for Success in the spring to do a workshop for women that focuses on self-advocacy in the workplace such as learning to develop skills to ask for raises or negotiate salaries. See Boston Workshop handout

**Pre-K Task Force Community Group**-Commissioner Blue and Commissioner Forman volunteered to be on this Task Force as representatives from the Durham Women’s Commission.

**Human Trafficking Panel:** November 11 @ 9-12 214 Broadway Street, Care Inc. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Anna Davis, K.D. Ann Walsh and Malicia Tedder all plan to attend.

**30th Anniversary Lunch**

Co-Chair Cameron updated the Commission about the upcoming 30th Anniversary Lunch. The hope is that each commissioner will sell five tickets. Please volunteer to assist. Need help setting up tables. Help Joy set up registration. Help taking care of special guests, Money from ticket sales should be turned in by November 20th. Checks should be made out to Durham County. The cost is $30 per person which will cover the cost of lunch and will offset decorations and guest lunches.

**Treasurer Report:**

Treasurer Spencer said that the hope is not to use any of the budget for the upcoming luncheon.

August and September meeting minutes were accepted.

**Upcoming Meetings**-The Commission is still meeting the week of November 27. No meeting in December. We will meet for brunch on December 9th. Commissioner Walsh volunteered to schedule and reserve a restaurant for the brunch.

**CEDAW Update**-Durham County became the first county in NC to pass CEDAW. UNC Capstone Research Presentation is now doing affordable housing for Durham. Commissioner Forman volunteered to be on this committee.

**Steering Committee Update**-Commissioner Holmes mentioned an upcoming event. []

Commissioner Johnson discussed a recent NY Times article that reported on the lack of women running for office in Japan. Vivian Slade joined the Steering Committee.

Co-Chair Tankard shared a recent experience from her trip to Liberty University on October 17, her alma mater. When she spoke the room was packed, and they discussed the double minority factor and what women of color struggling with professionally.

Co-Chair Cameron updated the Commission about the situation with Congresswoman Wilson of Florida. She gave out information about how to contact the White House if you wish to express your opinion. She also gave out the contact information for Congresswoman Wilson if you wish to send a word of encouragement.

Co-Chair Tankard adjourned the meeting at 6:02.