Durham Women’s Commission

July 22, 2019

Meeting Minutes

**Commissioners Present:**

Vivian Slade, Ruebe Holmes, Zion Tankard, Aquaris Moore-Anderson, Cynthia Bland, Tamika McRae, Guest: Cynthia Hinchey

**Commissioners Absent:** Joy Spencer, Brianna Van Stekelenburg, Kim Cameron, Elizabeth Morrell, Stephanie Forman, Shauna Johnson, Milicia Tedder, Sarah Bausch, Olivia Horton, K.D. Ann Welsh, Michelle Laws, Patti Black

Chair Vivian Slade called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Chair Report**

An update on the bylaws will be needed as they currently state the Women’s commission meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. This will need to be changed to the fourth Monday.

The Reproductive Rights Statement will be presented to the County Commissioners on a date in August.

Women’s Commission flyers- 13 members voted and 5 did not. Option 1 was voted as most popular.

**Vice-Chair Report**

The partnership with the Links, Inc. will continue with the Accelerator Business Program. Women can apply and will be selected by September. They will be paired with a mentor and the winner will get to showcase their business at the Links Fashion Show, Shades of Green.

Future events for the Women’s Commission were discussed including an economic development and wealth management workshop and financial planning, budgeting and wills/estates workshops. Also, the NC Council for Women has plans for events for the 19th Amendment 100 year anniversary in 2020.

**Treasurer Report:** The new budget for FY 2019-2020 starts in July with $500.

**CEDAW Committee**

Beth Dehghan has stepped down after 10 years as Director of Women NC. Mary Thompson named the Interim Director. The Women’s Commission will need to reach out to them to see what the partnership looks like for Women NC.

**Steering Committee Report**

Vice Chair Holmes reported on the status of women in NC and the NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement Report on the Employment and Earnings for Women of Color in NC. The report stated that Women of Color in NC will not see equal pay until 2060; WOC earn a median income of $ 31,821 which is $13,179 less than men; and that Equal Pay would cut the poverty rate in half for working women in NC.

Another report on the status of Women in NC: Health and Wellness was commissioned by the state and conducted by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research. The report gave NC a D grade for women’s health based on the states rank of 11th highest in infant mortality; 9th highest in stroke mortality for women and 13th highest in diabetes mortality. Black women and women in rural communities had significantly higher rates. 13% of women in the state are uninsured

A call for new members of the Steering Committee will be sent out.

**June Meeting Minutes**

Approval of June minutes tabled until next meeting. Quorum needed.

**Women’s Commission Survey- Commissioner Zion Tankard**

Commissioner Tankard presented the results of the survey of Women’s Commission members. Most members had served a year or more; 92% felt that the DCWC helped them advocate for women effectively; for 80% Culture was important in advocating for women, followed by the legal status of men/women at 60% and male/female psychological differences at 46%. Women advocates were most passionate about affordable housing (66%), Pay equity and childcare (60%). Overall most felt that women’s advocacy helped them personally learn and grow. They were able to influence women’s advocacy in their families, home and at work. All expressed that they enjoyed working with other women.

Commissioner Tankard expressed the incredible amount of women’s advocacy being done in Durham such as the RAGE NC -Race and Gender Equity Campaign led by Gloria De Los Santos where WOC in the Triangle stand against racist rhetoric.

**Guest Speaker: Jennifer Hinchey- Victim and Witness Services Coordinator with the City of Durham Police Department**

Jennifer works as a non sworn employee of the Durham Police Department and presented on the work she does on behalf of victims and witnesses in Durham.

Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) gets victims connected to local service provider in that moment of crisis. It has proved to reduce the number of domestic homicides. It is a quick exchange of 13 questions and depends on their responses. Most victims are open to speaking to advocate in real time. Their cases are assigned to an investigator in the department. The Special Victims Unit and Domestic Violence units have combined because of the overlap between those crimes.

The SAVAN program (Statewide Automated Victim Assistance & Notification) allows you to register and receive notification when a suspect will be released.

The Victims Compensation Program is a state and federal fund if one is injured as a result of a crime for lost wages and injuries and death related to a crime. The burden is on the victim to gather all their bills. There may be $30K-35K if its for a funeral. The fund is not for relocation or a down payment.

They conduct safety planning and connect to resources and send info via mail to all victims of crime. For a domestic violence victim, services are provided in unit and home visits and follow up if the victim needs it. There is a Crisis line open 24 hours a day. They can go to court with victims and help them navigate the court system. They partner with the Center for Child and Family Health on how Domestic Violence impacts children.

They process cold cases by initiating contact and seeing if they are interested in moving forward with the case and processing evidence.

**Announcements**

Housing for New Hope has an affordable housing initiative called the Holloway House for 7 women without children. The Open House for the location will be on July 28, 9-5 pm.

The next Women’s Commission meeting will be on August 25, 2019.

Chair Slade adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm.