The April 18, 2019 meeting of the Solano Commission for Women and Girls (SCWG) was held in the Multipurpose Room (1600) on the first floor of Solano County Administration Center located at 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Solano Commission for Women and Girls was called to order at

6:04pm.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present (13)**

Olivia Ruiz Solano County, District 1

Ana Petero Solano County, District 2

Jennifer Hamilton Solano County, District 4

Laura Petty Solano County, District 5

Elease Cheek City of Vallejo

Rochelle Sherlock Solano County Office of Education

Sakina Ali SCWG Appointment

Cornelia Gibson City of Fairfield

Kay Kelley City of Rio Vista

Mary Lou Batchelor City of Dixon

Doriss Panduro SCWG Appointment

Kaitlyn Dutton SCWG Appointment

Akon Walker SCWG Appointment

**Members Absent (3)**

Gayle Vaughan City of Benicia

Tiffani Thomas City of Suisun

Judi Ruggiero-Ferrara City of Vacaville

**VACANT** Solano County, District 3

**Staff, Speakers, and Guests Present**

Sabine Goerke-Shrode Solano County, District 3 Representative

Edith Thomas Connections for Life

Norma Lorenko Executive Director, Healthy Cooking with Kids

Elaine Clark Area Agency on Aging

Lisette Estrella-Henderson Solano County Superintendent of Schools

Frances McCullough President, Solano Library Foundation

**COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No public comments

I. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

There are no additions or deletions to the agenda.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Commissioner Hamilton and seconded by

Commissioner Gibson – Vote - Unanimous

III. Approval of the SCWG Meeting Minutes dated March 21, 2019.

Corrections to Meeting Minutes

Clarification of Commissioner Hamilton’s presentation: census data is from 2010

and from 2016.

Edith Thomas was not in attendance on March 21, 2019.

Motion to approve the minutes by Commissioner Batchelor and seconded by

Commissioner Cheek – Vote: Unanimous

REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Status Report: Data on Education and Girls

Commissioner Cheek commended Superintendent Estrella-Henderson for her

leadership and representation of Solano County.

Solano County Superintendent Lisette Estrella-Henderson introduced and reviewed

data, on the 63,000 students who attend public schools in Solano County, in a

PowerPoint presentation. Hard copies of the presentation were distributed to the

Commission.

Note: Data includes River Delta Unified School District which is not in Solano County,

but is in the Sacramento County School District, and partially San Joaquin Delta County.

Areas addressed include the following:

* Demographics, reflective of diversity of the county
* Gender
* Homeless
* Foster youth
* Students with disabilities

Primary disabilities compiled by Special Education Local Planning Area or

SELPA (not including River Delta or Vallejo)

* Ethnicity
* Graduation rate by school District (meeting CSU/IGETC requirements)

Certificate of Completion are not tracked.

Gender

Academic achievement

* Funding and resources, by Governor Brown, were addressed as well.
* Staffing, Certified female, male
* Certificated = credentialed, counselors, administration
* Classified = no credential required
* FTE (full time equivalence)

On staffing, Commissioner Walker made on observation regarding the faculty not

reflecting the diverse student population, with some background on Brown v Board of

Education.

Superintendent also addressed work done with youth at Juvenile Hall where the majority

are black and brown boys. There are five (5) girls in JV. Teachers assign packets to

students. The goal is to change mindsets and teach to core standards to better prepare

students for graduation. A vision and mission were established, accredited, and thus far,

50 students have earned high school diplomas. Mid-cycle review was good.

Question: How has curriculum changed?

Answer: State Board has instructional materials and invested in text books and

electronic, interactive technology. The Board of Supervisors approved starting a

construction-trades class.

Data is available at the California Department of Education website and the California

Healthy Kid Survey. More data resources are included in the packet.

Question: Commissioner Cheek asked what’s being done about outreach to diversify

teachers, and how can the Commission help.

Answer: Analyze data to inform advocacy.

Superintendent Estrella-Henderson agreed to provide additional data and will return to

help develop the narrative.

2. Issues Facing Senior Women

Elaine Clark, with the Area Agency on Aging gave presentation on issues facing older

women. Clark provided an overview of the agency formed in January, 2019, and is the

first for the County.

Areas addressed were:

Life expectancy: men=76, Women=81

Women are becoming impoverished as they age, because they are not as skilled are outliving their resources and are the fastest groups of homeless population. They are

also outliving driving age by 7-10 years. In order to address these issues, an advisory

council on aging was created and made up of 16 individuals. This will to go to Board of

Supervisors for approval. The Council will be a guide in decision making on how to

spend money, and create a strategy. Funding comes from Older American’s Act and the

California Department of Aging. The task is to understand the needs, planning, advocacy, and creating resources.

Education involves SNAP education, teaching healthy habits of eating and exercise.

Additionally, ensuring senior center inclusivity. One of the resources addressed is Vibe

Solano. Statistics indicate that 66 percent of women end up being caregivers. There is a

four (4) year area plan and the fourth (4th) year is being updated now. Finally, the County

is investing resources for research.

Commissioner Sherlock addressed the average age at which seniors tend to stop

driving, which is around 85 years old, and the resources available to them.

As the majority of middle-aged population have living parents, discussion ensued on the

resources that are available to assist. Commissioner Kelley addressed concerns in the

Rio Vista area.

3. Status Report: Data on Senior Women

Sabine Goerke-Shrode shared data she collected on senior women based on 2010

census and 2012-2016 community survey (handouts distributed to the Commission).

Seniors are defined as 60 years old and above.

Areas addressed include the following:

* Detailed Age and Sex, baby-boomers, specifically
* Age structure
* Ethnicity
* Marital information
* Seniors in poverty
* Retirement (55-64): 33 percent have no retirement. Median retirement savings is

$12K/year. One in three receive only Social Security Benefits. This affects more

women than men, as they live longer but not as stable due to less skills and pay

inequity. This leads to higher financial difficulty. This information is from Statistical

Atlas, and data is from AARP.

Discussion ensued as to what kinds of compensation men receive into retirement

compared to women. Observations from the Summit Sabine attended was the need for

financial education for younger women so as to better prepare them for senior status.

* + Household income using 2011 data
  + Elder Economics Security Index indicates that older adults need $24K to live a bare

minimum lifestyle without financial support services. Cost of living has not kept up

with living expenses. Older Americans Act has not kept up to meet the needs. The

number one group of homeless are senior women. Twenty-two percent of seniors are

on food stamps.

Ms. Clark noted that many do not qualify for many services/resources if they receive SSI. It was noted that this is changing.

There are $20M for services, and there is a need to prioritize resources…

A discussion arose regarding how to find seniors, as one concern was that seniors are

hard to find, specifically in Dixon. Some suggestions included senior centers, churches,

home-delivery meals, socializing and building community.

* 14 adult residential care homes
* 150 assisted living facilities (large and small)

1 geriatric care (in Vallejo)

* 10 senior low income locations in Vacaville, 12 in Fairfield/Suisun, 12 in Vallejo, 8

in Benicia, 9 in Dixon. These are subsidized for residents.

* Waiting list for Section 8 housing in solano county is approximately 1,500 people.

County is working with landlords to accommodate low income.

Shared Housing Program that is implemented elsewhere was addressed as a

consideration. Other alternatives were suggested.

4. Social Media Training

Tabled for May meeting.

5. Financial Update

Chair Sherlock provided a financial update which began with the Founding committee’s established fund of $11,570.07, with the Solano Community Foundation, as the Commission does not currently have a fiduciary agent.

Treasurer Ruiz needs a statement from Connie Harris in order to provide an accurate Treasurer’s report. It was suggested that this issue needs to be resolved; Commissioner Petty offered to discuss the issue with Ms. Harris.

For clarification, Chair Sherlock stated that no funds have been spent. Pending

expenses, according to Ruiz are: $228 for the Website, $55 for the Domain.

Treasure Ruiz will contact Ms. Harris for information for a complete report.

The Solano Community Foundation will only issue a check to a non-profit agency, so the Commission is seeking a fiduciary agent.

Dr. McCullough asked if there is any monthly report? Treasurer Ruiz responded that one email has been received from Ms. Harris, but no statement has been issued nor a year- end statement. Commissioner Kelley asked if funds must be with a non-profit? Can moneys be moved?

Vice Chair Petty addressed the issue of “pass through” as potentially problematic. She suggested that Clarissa, County Counsel, is consulted in order to ensure compliance with how to store funds, as in a fiduciary agent.

Commissioner Cheek asked why SCWG can’t start its own 501C-3. Commissioner

Hamilton was concerned with the cost, and Chair Sherlock suggested that it must be a separate entity from SCWG. This was discussed by founding members. Commissioner Cheek asked if there have been additional funds since the beginning and raised a concern that, to date, there is no financial report. Chair Sherlock recounted the donations from the founding members as well as the initial donations. Treasure Ruiz is

not comfortable issuing a report due to inadequate information. Ruiz will reach out to Ms. Harris, next month regarding process and provide a report.

Chair Sherlock wrote a grant to the Vacaville Soroptimist group in order to generate

more funds.

Commissioner Hamilton presented to the Vacaville Soroptimist group and received a plaque. In her report, Hamilton brought up questions from the Soroptimist group regarding the need for funding and why the Board of Supervisors isn’t funding the Commission. She replied that as one of many advisory groups, we do not receive funding, but are provided with staff and infrastructural support among other resources.

We are to fundraise on our own. Additionally, they are interested in being a part of the

status report, would like a survey conducted and would like their group and networks utilized to conduct the survey. Hamilton will organize a survey that she will propose to the commission.

Chair Sherlock shared that she was invited by Congress Representative, Garamendi to speak to the newly formed advisory committee comprised of women he has recognized as women of the year. The speech was presented to approximately 40 women, in Dixon.

a) Committee Reports

Executive Committee

No Report…

b) Membership Committee

No Report…

c) Events Committee – Report by Commissioner Sherlock

Events committee met. Corrin Quinn suggested a women’s educational summit

or conference where one of the issues that can be addressed is pay equity. It is

in the planning for next spring.

d) Status Report Committee

No Report…

e) Communications Committee – Report by Commissioner Ali

Commissioner Ali reminded the commission to take pictures of meetings for

social media. So far, two (2) logos have been submitted for the logo contest. The

introductory interview of SCWG was shown on channel 28. The first interview

was an overview of SCWG with three of the founding members: Commissioners

Cheek, Sherlock, and Jennifer Barton. The next interview will be the chair of

the Communications Committee, Status Report, and Events Committee. Please

share to individual social media.

6. Future Agenda Items

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2019, from 6-8pm.

Multipurpose Room (Room 1600) on the first floor of Solano County Administration Center located at 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533