The August 15, 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

6:02pm. Meeting was delayed due to lack of quorum.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present (14)**

Olivia Ruiz Solano County, District 1

Ana Petero Solano County, District 2

Sabine Goerke-Shrode Solano County, District 3

Jennifer Hamilton Solano County, District 4

Laura Petty Solano County, District 5

Rochelle Sherlock Solano County Office of Education

Gayle Vaughan City of Benicia

Mary Lou Batchelor City of Dixon

Cornelia Gibson City of Fairfield

Kay Kelley City of Rio Vista

Tiffani Thomas City of Suisun

Elease Cheek City of Vallejo

Akon Walker SCWG Appointment

Doriss Panduro SCWG Appointment

**Members Absent (3)**

Kaitlyn Dutton SCWG Appointment

Judi Ruggiero-Ferrara City of Vacaville

Sakina Ali SCWG Appointment

**Staff, Speakers, and Guests Present**

Edith Thomas

Ray Thomas

Courtney Tindell Superior Court

Pat Nickodemus Women’s Re-entry Achievement Program, Sheriff’s Department

Norma Wesanco Innovative House Solutions

Mary Henderson Vallejo

CC Martinez Vallejo

Birgitta Corsello County Administrative Representative

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC/BOARD MEMBER**

*This is your opportunity to address the Commission on a matter not listed on the Agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the SCWG. Please limit your comments to three minutes.*

Upon completion of introductions, Commissioner Walker announced an invitation to the Solano Heals Program Open House on Saturday September 24, from 12-3pm, at the JFK Library, Vallejo. The invitation was from a former presenter, Dr. Fuller. They are requesting RSVP on Eventbrite.

1. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Commissioner Batchelor and seconded by Commissioner Cheek – Vote: Unanimous

1. Approval of the June 20, 2019 SCWG Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Thomas – Vote: Unanimous

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. Status Report: Women in the Criminal Justice System

Chair Sherlock reviewed the Solano Commission for Women and Girls’ task and an overview of the meetings before introducing Vice Chair Petty who conducted a presentation on “Women and Girls in Solano County’s Criminal Justice System.

Vice Chair Petty addressed the following areas:

She began with an overview of her presentation and previewed her guests’ presentations.

- Girls and women are defined as “defendants”

- Juvenile and adult crime rates have been falling steadily since 1990s.

- Largest category of crimes are 1) violent crimes, and 2) property crimes

- In Solano County, crime rates fell from 2006-2015

- According to the Superintendent of Juvenile Hall as well as Government statistics, Juvenile Hall also fell in half in the last three years as a result of changes in legislation and support for programs. Currently there are five girls, with an average of three girls; however, funding is challenging as the samples are limited.

Reviewing her interview with the Superintendent, their needs include programs directed specifically to girls, as well as cognitive behavioral therapy. Staffing for programs is also a problem, as they are currently dependent on outside volunteers, some lacking in adequate training.

Probation: In Solano County the number one change is that all probation officers are receiving trauma informed training. It also collaborates with other agencies such as child welfare, school districts, mental health, families first, among other programs that provide services in the community. Legislation added continuing care model employed with girls and boys.

While the services provided are appreciated there are still needs which include more training for service providers and probation officers to better connect, and develop a rapport with girls with trauma. In criminal court, women made up 23 percent of defendants. It costs $155/day or approximately $56,000/year to keep them in custody.

Women’s Re-entry Achievement Program (WRAP) provides services to women in jail, transition out of jail. The key to its success according to Ms. Nicodemus, is building relationships and collaborating with other service providers in the community. Currently, there is no WRAP program for girls coming out of juvenile hall, which is a tremendous need according to the service providers. There is only one residential treatment option, one detox center, in Vallejo, and one transition home for homeless women in Solano County.

Collaborative Courts work as part of a team to solve the problem. Some examples of collaborative courts are Dependency Drug Court, Drug Court, Veterans’ Court, and Mental Health Court, coordinated by Commissioner Thomas. None of these resources are available in juvenile court for several reasons.

1. Status Report: Jail-Based Programs for Women

Vice Chair Petty introduced Pat Nicodemus who provided a WRAP pamphlet and gave a presentation on the WRAP program. Nicodemus began with the inception and establishment of the WRAP program which began with a grant to fund the program. In her presentation, she addressed the following issues:

- The program began with women, in prison, voluntarily, telling their stories. Stories included abuse and/or neglect and many had no support system. Funding continued in order to better address the issues and provide resources. The ethos of the group was providing staff who have lived experiences in order to build rapport. Groups were formed, guest speakers were invited and increased funding led to increased resources.

In 1990 the Health and Social Service Department, in order to apply for a “Second Chance Act grant to reduce recidivism, were able to draw from the women’s stories which led to the establishment of WRAP.

Groups were established for participants which include, Motivation to Change, Seeking Safety, 12 Steps, among others. Other groups participate in providing resources in order to reintegrate participants into the community, and WRAP follows up with the participants in programs such as the Positive Parenting Programs (PPP).

Nicodemus shared inspiring stories and a discussion ensued regarding the programs that Solano County has to offer for this segment of the community. As a veteran advocate of WRAP, Nicodemus was praised by several members of the Commission for her work, empowerment and her inspiration.

Nicodemus concluded her presentation discussing the graduations and successes of the women in the WRAP program.

1. Status Report

Vice Chair Petty introduced Courtney Tindall, who has worked for the courts since 2006. Ms. Tindall provided an overview of her background in Collaborative Courts. The design of child welfare was in the interest of the child rather than the parent. Collaborative Courts were designed to work with parents. Changing language from “what did you do?” to “what happened to you?” is a step toward helping parents. Tindall addressed some of the reasons why parents abused drugs and solutions to help parents. She addressed the process of her work with parents beginning with building rapport to assessing and providing resources including family therapy, EMDR Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprograming, tailored specifically to the parents.

Tindall invited the Commission to the program’s reunion of the class of 2006 to the present, to be held on September 11, 2019 from 3:30-4:30.

Question: How many people are served daily and monthly?

Answer: The program is voluntary and are referred. There are currently 28 clients and 5 with whom she is working directly, with 12 new referrals. The biggest need in Solano County is an additional case worker.

On a case plan, a parent must visit children, assessment and recommendation, and drug testing. Tindall also works with CASAS.

Question: What can the programs do to help communities in terms of preventative measures?

Answer: Prevention happens at a young age. Communication is fundamental and access is important.

A suggestion was presented that upon completion of the status report, SCWG may be of assistance in advocacy for such programs.

Funding for Tindall’s program began as a grant and is now based on matched dollars between county and court.

Question on the data: Drug Court, 2016, there were 73 participants, broken down by ethnicity-- 6 African American, 22 White 5 Hispanic, 1 Other. Is Dependency similar in Tindall’s program?

Answer: Yes, and people of color are underserved.

Chair Sherlock echoed Commissioner Cheek’s suggestion of advocacy.

1. Status Report: Committee Update and Recommendations from the Status Report Committee

Chair Sherlock reported on the Status Report committee’s review of the goals and execution of the status report. The discussion entailed criteria on the data, and the need for actual actionable meaningful data:

a. Pertain to women and girls i.e. poverty, violence, pay equity, health, breast cancer rates.

b. Prioritize data—most important i.e. gap analysis, redundancies

c. Complete report to Board of Supervisors

Question: What are the specifics such as what is the focus? How many categories?

Answer. There are general categories such as “Health and Safety”. The committee has narrowed criteria to six categories.

Question: Is there a timeline for completion of the report?

Answer: December, 2019.

Commissioner Hamilton discussed the Structure of the status report. Five archetypes of women will be featured in terms of individual/specific examples to illustrate, and personalize the data. Thus, the report will be structured in terms of the data, what it means, and its application in terms of the individual/personal examples in the form of the archetypes and their successes.

Vice Chair Petty stated that the executive committee, in building agendas, will ensure that the Commission is focusing more on the report.

Chair Sherlock stated that the data will be ready for the consultant to review and work with SCWG to complete the status report. The data includes women and girls.

Action: Motion that status report committee can narrow data collection and begin the process of searching for a consultant. Commissioner Ruiz made the motion and seconded by Commissioner Vaughn. Vote: Unanimous

1. Communications Protocol – Review and approve recommended protocols for public and media communications

Commissioner Vaughan reported on the Executive Committee’s discussion on the procedures regarding communications, press releases, and print media. The Communication Committee’s Charter states that the Commission must approve all content. Chair Sherlock clarified that information to be disseminated ought to be what is public, consistent, and the process by which the information is vetted

Action: Tabled for next meeting (September)

1. Approval of Press Release and Video--Review and approve Logo Contest Press Release and Video Content

Action: Motion to disseminate the most recent press release was made by Commissioner Vaughan and seconded by Commissioner Cheek. Vote: Unanimous.

Action: Motion that videos to press are to go through executive committee, not to commission for final review before release, was made by Commissioner Batchelor and seconded by Commissioner Vaughan. Vote: Unanimous

1. SCWG Financial Structure

Commissioner Kelley reviewed the “pass through” discussion and reported on the status of this proposal with her organization. Her board approved a separate account for SCWG as “friends of the solano commission for women and girls”. The charge is 1.5 percent annually for administration costs, reviewed annually, and her full board will meet on September 5, for their final vote.

1. Future Agenda Items

- Action: Approve Passthrough fund

- Action: September: Approve winner of logo contest

- Action: October: Presentation to logo contest winners

- Action: November: Election of officers

- December: Social gathering…

- Sabine Goerke-Shrode has been appointed for District 3

- Follow-up/Replacement of Commissioner Dutton

- Procedures Packet

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September15, 2019, from 6-8pm.

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