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***Minutes***

**Virtual Meeting**

**May 20, 2021 06:00 PM***.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commission Chair Petty called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present**

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

Gayle Vaughan City of Benicia

Pat Nicodemus City of Dixon

Dr. Rechelle Nettles City of Fairfield

Tiffani Thomas City of Suisun

Edith Thomas City of Vacaville

Elease Cheek City of Vallejo

Andrea Lemos Solano County Office of Education

Akon Walker Member at Large

Sakina Ali Youth Member at Large

Juliana Biggs Youth Member at Large

**Members Absent**

Oliva Ruiz Solano County, District 1

Kay Kelley City of Rio Vista

Doriss Panduro Member at Large

**Visitors**

Jennifer Artz ( Homeless advocate)

Mary Henderson (Former nurse, active on the Maternity & Infant Health team)

Sidone Seltzer: (High schooler who is interested in the Commission’s work)

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC/BOARD MEMBERS**

Commissioner Vaughan requested a Moment of Silence for Sherry Richardson Coffee, a long-time Benicia Middle School Teacher, who recently passed. She was a strong advocate for women and girls’ education.

Chair Petty reminded working groups that they need to create resources lists to be placed on pages on the Website. Each group will need to have something to turn over to Kourtney at June meeting. (Action required by working groups)

*1. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda*: None

*2. Approval of the Agenda*: Commissioner Cheek moved and Commissioner Nicodemus seconded to approve the Agenda. Vote was unanimous.

*3. Approval of the April 15, 2021 SCWG Meeting Minutes:* Commissioner Petero moved and Commissioner Ali seconded that we approve the Minutes from our last meeting. Vote was unanimous.

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

*1.**Deeper Introductions with break out groups:* Commissioners were partnered to hold brief conversations about each other and then shared that information with the whole group.

*2. Period Product Project with Touro University’s AMWA:* It was reported that lots of products were gathered and $1200 was donated through Venmo. $500 worth of products were purchased which went into over 100 packets made up for distribution. Jennifer Artznoted that we aren’t spending all the money now so that we can have multiple rounds of distribution and that the project will continue over time. Ms. Artz and Commissioner Nicodemus will be going to encampments to deliver the packets.

*3.Treasurer’s Financial Report:* Treasurer Commissioner Ali reported that the previous balance in May was $1973.85 and that all checks received since our last financial report have been deposited, making our current balance $1,998.85.

A discussion ensued over the need to budget for future costs of the website. Currently we would need $500 every two years. Various Commissioners offered ideas about how to reduce that cost. We may need to change the website support platform.

*4.* *Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW) Bootcamp, May 22:* Commissioner Edith Thomas reported about the April 20th meeting of the California Commission for Status for Women and Girls. She described various structures, formation procedures, and how some commissions are funded by their counties.

Discussion was held about the opportunity for mentorship from the state commission and the possible need to get financial support from the BOS.

To join the ACCW costs $200 annually. The National Association of Commissions for Women and Girls is $75. Commissioner Chair Petty offered to pay if we wanted to join but was unsure of the benefits of each.

Commissioner Hamilton moved and Commissioner Goerke-Shrode seconded that we join the National Association and that our members attending the Bootcamp on May 22nd evaluate the ACCW and report back. The vote was unanimous to join the National Association.

5*. Solano Birth Justice Event*: Commissioner Tiffani Thomas reported that the event was very successful with 59 registered and 46 in actual zoom attendance. The panel was well received with participants asking lots of questions. There will be a write-up with photos for the website. Local ob/gyn doctors were in attendance and indicated they learned info about equity that they will use in their practices.

Commissioner Nicodemus led a discussion about California Senate Bill 65, the “Momnibus Act,” which would, among other things, improve the training of midwives, require a new statewide department to identify and review all pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity, and requireeach county to annually report infant deaths to its respective local health department. The bill would require local health departments to establish a Fetal and Infant Mortality Review committee. Governor Newsom has included the cost of the statewide program in his current budget proposal.

There will be another Birth Justice workshop on June 5 focusing on Health Equity for African American Women. Press releases about the workshop are needed for social media. Commissioner Hamilton offered to work on them. Commissioner Vaughan offered to do print media PR if needed.

*6. Working Group Reports*

-Maternity and Infant Mortality: They already reported in item 5 above.

-Violence Against Women and Girls: Commissioner Biggs and Commissioner Hamilton reported about an Anti-Trafficking Coalition group presentation to the team. There is a need to leverage funding/support for emergency housing. Commissioner Hamilton volunteered to sit on the housing coalition to connect with her supervisor. The next meeting will feature a speaker from SafeQuest about a high school program against cyberbulling, harassment, and domestic violence.

-Poverty/Homelessness/Food Insecurity: Commissioner Edith Thomas reported more about the Period Product Project, and then discussed several ideas for future plans: encourage the county to put up outhouses near encampments, create laminated resource cards by city to give to the homeless, and possible ways to advocate for the homeless.

*7. Returning to In-person Meetings*: Detailed discussion was held on how and when we can return to In-person meetings as the covid-19 restrictions open up after June 15. Commissioner Hamilton moved and Commissioner Goerke-Shrode seconded a motion that we return to In-person meetings in August.

Some Commissioners who have health issues and concerns about unvaccinated members of the public attending, were hoping we could do a hybrid model (live and zoom). However, the regular meeting room doesn’t have reliable wi-fi to allow for that. Options were further discussed. The original motion was withdrawn and modified. Commissioner Hamilton moved and Commissioner Nicodemus seconded that “ If it is in the best interest of the commission, we will go back to In-person meetings with a hybrid model in August.” The motion passed, but we will revisit the issues again in our June meeting to work out technical difficulties.

*8. Committee Reports*

-Membership/ Bylaws changes: We are looking for approval from BOS but keep getting bumped from Agenda. Commissioner Hamilton will check with county counsel to see if we need approval and/or if it can be part of the consent calendar.

*9. Agenda Items for June 2021 Meeting*

Kourtney to explain Website needs and functions

Possible ACCW membership

Revisit In-person Meetings

**ADJOURN:** Chair Petty adjourned the meeting at 8:02