



**MINUTES**  
**Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW)**  
**Friday, May 20, 2016**  
**12:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
**800 NE Oregon Street, Room 612**  
**Portland OR 97232**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Chair:** Dr. Barbara Spencer  
**Vice Chair:** Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna (phone)  
**Commissioners:** Sheri Malstrom, Stephanie Swanson, Stephanie Vardavas, Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson (phone)  
**Absent:** Clara Elena Beas-Fitzgerald, Rep. Betty Komp  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann  
**Guests:** Tameka Brazile, Multnomah County Health; Emily Evans and Rachel Torres, Women's Foundation of Oregon; Kim Olson, OCFW candidate, State of Oregon Treasury; Stacy Nalley, Capitol Gateway Project; Suzanne Hansche from We can Do Better; Gary Sims, ODOC

**I. Call to order**

Chair Spencer called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm and a quorum was established. The Commission bid farewell to Commissioner Stephanie Swanson and thanked her for her service on the OCFW. Introductions were made. It was noted that Representative Komp is retiring and, in Jan 2017, the Speaker of the House will appoint a new legislator to the OCFW. Senator Monnes Anderson suggested that the Commission reach out to the Speaker of the House about a future Rep to be appointed.

**II. Approval of the agenda and the March 2016 Minutes** – The agenda and minutes were approved by common consent.

**III. Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

**IV. Guest Presentations**

**A. Emily Evans, Exec Director, Women's Foundation of Oregon (WFO)**

Ms. Evans announced that the WFO's comprehensive report on the *Status of Women and Girls in Oregon* is scheduled to be released on September 21st. Its goal is to fundamentally change the way gender equity work is progressing in Oregon.

She provided the OCFW with an overview of the primary findings and results from the statewide listening tour that she and Rachel Torres conducted in cities and towns across Oregon. Emily will be briefing the Governor and her advisors about the report along with Chair Spencer during

the summer. Chair Spencer extended the OCFW's support for the report and future public policy proposals.

The Commission thanked Emily for the presentation of these exciting data and priority focus areas outlined in the report. The OCFW looks forward to partnering with the WFO and supporting the policy work ahead.

#### B. Stacy Nalley, Capitol Building Programs, Women's History Month 2017

Ms. Nalley, the Public Outreach Coordinator at the State Capitol, discussed her plans for the upcoming exhibit in the Capitol that will showcase women in Oregon, during national Women's History Month in March, 2017. She asked the Commission to help with suggestions of suitable exhibit materials. Resource ideas included Jan Dilg at PSU for her work with Century in Action, the Oregon Women Firsts research and poster created by the PSU Center for Women Leadership, and the Washington County Museum. Also, Kimberly Jensen at WOU (Oregon History app), might have historic sites that could be showcased in the exhibit.

The Commission thanked Stacy for reaching out to them.

### **V. OCFW Old Business**

#### A. Strategic Plan review

Chair Spencer discussed the overview of the OCFW strategic plan which organizes outcomes from their planning discussions held in the winter and spring of 2016 into key areas. It is appended as part of the minutes. Discussion followed.

#### B. Family Preservation Project Update

**1. Oregon Solutions project:** Vice Chair Rodriguez-Montegna reported that Oregon Solutions recommended that the project proposed by the OCFW on family unity for incarcerated parents not move forward at this time due to the number of changes in leadership and legislative champions associated with this discussion. This may be revisited in 6 months.

One of the potential partners in the discussion, YWCA, is currently pursuing their interest in formulating a Bill of Rights for children of incarcerated parents modeled after a similar bill from San Francisco.

#### **2. OCFW meeting with the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) on family unity programming:**

Commissioner Vardavas reported on her and Lucy's recent meeting with Heidi Steward, who directs programming for the Department of Corrections. Heidi was receptive to the OCFW's interest and support of programming in support of incarcerated parents, especially mothers, and other issues of importance to incarcerated women. She would like to meet again after discussing the most pressing issues with the staff at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in June, such as reentry programming. Heidi was receptive to the idea of moving forward on continuing the FPP. Heidi will get back to them in the summer or fall about possible opportunities for re-entry programming. They will look at what the most potent ways to use OCFW's limited resources are, for Heidi's ideas to support mothers and their children.

Ty Schwoeffermann circulated a report from the U.S Attorney General's office which has published a 10-year plan for addressing issues of recidivism, and incarcerated women and their children. He will share the link to electronic copies of the report with Commissioners,

along with the report that ODOC prepared for the OCFW on data regarding the needs of incarcerated women in Oregon.\*\*\*

The OCFW is interested in scheduling their visit to Coffee Creek this year.

#### C. OCFW/Oregon State Library Equity Public Policy Research

Last year Barbara, Stephanie & Lucy met with State Librarian MaryKay Dahlgreen and the Manager of the Government Services (reference) Section, Margie Harrison. The OCFW and the Library began a partnership as a result of that meeting, with the library providing reference materials and statistics to each of the Advocacy Commissions as they research equity issues and prepare testimony on priority issues. Last month, Chair Spencer and Lucy met with the Library to consider expanding the partnership, with two OAC Public Policy Research Internships to prepare the background reference materials and the analysis of policy gaps for all 6 of the OAC's priority areas. One of the interns would be based with the OCFW (policy analysis) and one would be based with the Library (best practices, studies and statistics). Next week the OCFW will review and approve the internship electronically and, if approved, will recruit students in September. This internship will be collaborative between all four of the Advocacy Commissions, with the OCFW as the champion that will be closely involved in its operation, working directly with the student intern. All of the OAC's public policy research internships are unpaid, for-credit experiences.

#### D. OCFW Legislative Discussion

OAC Policy Analyst Ty Schwoeffermann reported that Interim Legislative Days are next week with a very full agenda. A number of key committees will be meeting, which Ty will attend and report back to the Commissions including:

- Revenue and Forecasting hearing on Monday, many funds are contingent on this committee.
- Discussion on the big transportation package. Ty will be there to listen and report. OACs will develop their position on the Transportation package.

Ty reminded Commissioners to register for the OAC's *How to Be Effective on Policy Development during Interim* training on July 7th - Senator Dembrow will lead this training. Most have it on their calendars and expect to attend. It will be a webinar so no travel is necessary. The training will cover:

- How to work directly with a legislator during interim (when the legislature is not in session).
- How to think about and develop a legislative concept.
- Being knowledgeable about bill and budget deadlines.
- Participating in rule making and related public input process.

Senator Monnes Anderson hopes to attend the training and lend her expertise to the presentation with Senator Dembrow.

The Commission discussed its primary budget request during the 2017 legislative session: increasing its Policy Analyst position from .5FTE to full time, and adding .25 FTE Office Specialist to assure more timely Commissioner and committee support. The Commission will reach out to the Governor's Office for its support of these essential budget requests. Serena Stoudamire Wesley is the OAC's Policy Advisor. The OAC Chairs and Lucy will reach out to her about it in June. After that, the Commissions will connect with the Co-Chairs of Ways & Means including Senator Devlin, and Joint Ways and Means General Government Committee,

once it is known who they are. Senator Monnes Anderson will support the effort as well and will be kept abreast of upcoming meetings.

Lucy will meet with Senator Devlin during the summer, who has always been a strong supporter of women's issues.

Looking ahead at developing bills, the OCFW will reach out to a number of allied groups including the BOLI's Council on Civil Rights, American Leadership Forum, PolicyLink, Institute for Women and Research, the Women's Foundation of Oregon and Oregon legislators who have been champions of women's issues.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Nominations for OCFW Chair and Vice Chair:**

After reviewing the number of OCFW Commissioners, including legislators, who will soon be moving out of Commission service (5) and the number who may fill the empty positions by this fall, Chair Spencer recommended postponing the nominations for OCFW officers until the OCFW's September meeting. If the OCFW postpones their officer elections, both Chair Spencer and Vice Chair Rodriguez-Montegna are willing to continue as officers through September. Jessica's term on the OCFW expires in October. The nominations were tabled until September and the elections were tabled until November by common consent.

### **B. OCFW Committee Structure:**

The Commission reviewed its current committee structure which includes 3 committees:

- **Women's Economic Security Committee** (Commissioners Spencer (Committee Chair) and Rodriguez-Montegna) met quarterly in preparation for the 2015 long session focusing on 4 key areas: jobs, wage equity, benefits, and childcare. They reviewed successful legislation from other states and worked with the OCFW legislators to propose 2 new concepts, both of which passed: Use of sick leave for DV associated reasons and maintenance of insurance during Family Medical Leave. The committee reviewed 6 proposed 2015 bills for the OCFW and prepared and delivered testimony on those bills before the legislature.
- **Health Committee** (Commissioners Cancel-Tirado and Malstrom) reviewed health-related bills for the OCFW in the 2015 long session and submitted testimony on 6 of those bills. They represented OCFW at the Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance (OWHWA) kick off at the Capitol and attended their meetings. Committee members also testified in person before the legislature four times for the OCFW.
- **Legislative Committee** (Committee of the whole/Committee Chairs Vardavas for 2015 long session, and Spencer for 2016 short session) worked with staff and OCFW's community partner the AAUW, to review and refer bills of interest to the OCFW for approval. In the 2015 session the Legislative Committee reviewed 15 bills, and assigned them to the OCFW committees, to individual Commissioner champions or to the Legislative committee to prepare and provide testimony. In the 2016 short session, the OCFW Legislative committee reviewed and testified on 3 bills and co-supported 3 bills jointly with the other Advocacy Commissions.

### **C. Commissioner Reports:**

Commissioner Malstrom serves with a number of organizations and capacities focused on health and has mentioned the OCFW and its policy work many times over the past few months on key women's health issues, including Sen. Dembrow's legislative taskforce on public health workers. Commissioner Malstrom, who will be a member of the legislature in 2017, looks forward to working within the OWHWA and the OCFW to promote women's issues in public health. She congratulated the Commission on their robust advocacy and legislative agenda.

Commissioner Vardavas and Lucy met on behalf of the OCFW with Heidi Steward, the Program Director for the Department of Corrections and look forward to reconnecting with Ms. Steward later in the summer at Heidi's invitation. Stephanie is also willing to prepare a Survey Monkey survey that will help progress the women's history app that OCFW is interested in seeing launched by the OHS and Heritage Commission.

Chair Spencer discussed her presentation on Representative Bentz's radio show at 6am in Ontario recently. Her subject was rural women's issues focusing on wages, jobs, poverty, and childcare. She ended her radio presentation with a highlight on transportation as a women's issue. Rep. Bentz' entire district is rural, with some pioneer counties, and he had a good exchange with Chair Spencer on the air on all these subjects plus an invitation to connect with him again during interim to further discuss transportation.

Chair Spencer also met with Lisa Dodson, a researcher and professor from Brandeis University who has now moved to Portland. They discussed, among other topics, affordable childcare for college students. One issue in particular is that enrolled college students receiving financial aid find that the additional income makes them ineligible for childcare subsidies. This is a DHS restriction. Barbara has invited Lisa and a coalition of advocates, called College Should Count, to present at an upcoming OCFW meeting. Barbara will attend College Should Count's next meeting in July to learn more.

It was noted that food poverty is a big issue for college students, and that a full ride scholarship does not necessarily cover basic day-to-day living expenses. A potential bill could remedy this situation.

#### D. Adding Environmental Equity/Justice as a separate Strategic Priority of the OACs:

In 2015 and 2016 legislative session, the OAC's supported bills that were focused on environmental equity. That included adding community solar to the energy bill in 2016, eradicating toxics in toys in 2015, and others. The Advocacy Commissions have always support these issues, which currently are listed under the Health priority area, but with a growing number of bills each session on environmental equity issues, the OAC Chairs are asking their Commissions to consider making Environmental Equity/Justice its own priority areas. After discussion the OCFW agreed by common consent to approve adding Environmental Equity/Justice as the 7<sup>th</sup> priority area of the Advocacy Commissions.

## **VII. Administrator's Report**

### A. Preliminary Agency Request Budget and Policy Option Packages (POPs)

Lucy and the Commissioners discussed the POPs, which now reflect the budget priorities of each of the Commissions, for the OACO Agency Request Budget:

1. An additional .5 FTE for the OACO's permanent, currently part-time Policy Analyst (would become a permanent 1.0 FTE position).

2. A .28 FTE (12 hrs/week) Office Specialist position to increase timeliness for commissioner reimbursements and related supports.

The POPs will be available for review after the Chief Financial Officer's office and the Legislative Fiscal Office meet to discuss these requests with the Governor's Office.

**VIII. Good of the Order**

- A. Next OCFW meeting Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Announcements – there were no announcements.

**IX. Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 2:47.

1st DRAFT

# Oregon Commission for Women 2015-2017

## Vision

We serve the people of Oregon to empower and support women through our special role as policy advisors to Oregon State Government. The Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW) is a catalyst that empowers partnerships between governments and communities to ensure equality and strives to achieve and maintain a safe and healthy environment for women and girls throughout the state of Oregon.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Oregon Commission for Women is to work for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equality for women and to maintain a continuing assessment of the issues and needs confronting women in Oregon.

## Principles and Values Statement

The Oregon Commission for Women believes in:

- Equity in education; jobs and the economy; healthcare; justice, safety and policing; housing and stable families; environmental justice; and civic engagement
- Equal treatment and protection against discrimination
- Equal access to information and resources
- Representation of women by women at all levels of public and private leadership
- Celebration of and education about women's achievements in all areas

## Goals

In addressing the priority areas of education; jobs and the economy; healthcare; justice, safety and policing; housing and stable families; environmental justice; and civic engagement, the Oregon Commission for Women will:

- Advocate for women's issues at the state policy level (**Advocacy**)
- Engage community and partners to promote equality for women and girls across Oregon (**Partnership**)
- Study issues affecting women and girls and recommend policy remedies (**Policy Research**)
- Increase the viability and visibility of women's contributions and leadership in Oregon (**Leadership**)

## Strategic Plans for 2015-2017

### Advocacy

- Maintain a legislative agenda for the 2015 – 2017 biennium in which the OCFW will prepare, track and support key legislation with written and oral testimonies
- Co-sponsor a legislative advocacy day in Salem with AAUW, our community partner
- Work with community partners in advocating for equity legislation
- Co-host a joint legislative meeting before long legislative session with the other Advocacy Commissions (Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs,

Black Affairs, and Hispanic Affairs) to hear from state and community partners about their priority equity-related legislative work to inform our legislative agenda.

### **Partnership**

- Support the work of the YWCA in its efforts to develop a bill of rights for children of incarcerated parents
- Support policy efforts by female college students to reduce the childcare costs
- Partner with the Women's Foundation of Oregon in its preparation and dissemination of its research on the status of women and girls in Oregon
- Partner with the Oregon State Library to assist state agencies in identifying an equity lens as the foundation for organizational policy and budgeting
- Partner with the Governor's Office of Equity and Community Engagement on joint projects that promote equity as part of excellence in state government

### **Policy Research**

- Collaborate with the Oregon State Library on a research practicum that identifies and categorizes key studies and data focused on equity for seven strategic elements of prosperity
- Assist Oregon state agencies with their preparation of equity-related policy research with the joint development of research practicums related to critical questions of disparity

### **Leadership**

- Engage in equity discussions with the Governor's policy advisors and agency department heads and staff
- Highlight the achievement of women in Oregon through the annual Women of Achievement Awards
- Grow the leadership of college women in Oregon with support for the Center for Women's Leadership at Portland State University

## Five Year Outcomes

The Oregon Commission for Women envisions a future where in five years:

- Women in Oregon enjoy levels of autonomy, opportunity, and leadership as never before.
- Women lead at every level across the state, from the nonprofit executive office and the corporate corner office to the Oregon legislature. Leadership reflects the state's demographic, with women proportionally represented in positions of authority. Our state is first in the nation in seating women in the legislature. Even more, women of color comprise a significant proportion of leaders serving on state boards and commissions and in the highest positions across state service.
- With pay equity, income transparency, paid parental leave and affordable childcare available statewide, women have equal access to financial resources and economic opportunity. Policies adopted by state and local governments to provide and protect housing affordability have made it possible for women to provide stability for their families. Reproductive autonomy for women has vastly reduced the number of unplanned pregnancies. Stemming from all of this, rates of incarceration for women have dropped significantly and prosperity increased for women rising out of poverty.
- None of this is accidental: these achievements grow from the substantial spadework of the Oregon Commission for Women, committed to equal opportunity for women. In working tirelessly to advocate on behalf of women across the state, the Oregon Commission for Women has become widely known in statewide government and the community as a resource and essential partner on women's issues and related policy research and development. Its Women of Achievement Awards annually recognize women leaders who advance the priorities identified by the Commission. The Commission is routinely sought after by the Governor, as well as by legislators in both houses, to provide guidance and collaboration on women's issues.

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