

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission for Women
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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MINUTES
Oregon Commission for Women
Friday, March 18, 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: Clara Beas-Fitzgerald, Sheri Malstrom, Stephanie Vardavas, Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson (phone)
Absent: Doris Cancel-Tirado, Stephanie Swanson, Representative Komp
Guests: Suzanne Hansen, Allies for a Healthier Oregon (AHO); Trish Garner, AUUW; Gary Sims, Oregon Department of Corrections.
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann (phone)

I. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm. A quorum was established. The Commission welcomed new Commissioner Clara Beas-Fitzgerald from Hermiston. She thanked the Commission and noted that many Latinos live in the Hermiston area with the population of nearby Boardman being 80% Latino residents.

II. Approval of the agenda and the January 2016 Minutes

MOTION (Vardavas/Beas-Fitzgerald): To accept the January 2016 minutes as written.
CARRIED.

III. Public Comment – Suzanne Hansen and Trish Gardner introduced themselves and briefly noted the collaborative work of the OCFW and their organizations: A Healthier Oregon and AAUW respectively.

IV. OCFW Old Business

A. Women of Achievement Awards recap

The annual WOA ceremony was last week, 3/9, in Salem with SOS Atkins as the host. Chair Spencer thanked Nancy Kramer for her considerable efforts in making the event a success. It was well-attended, with more than 60 friends and family members attending. Honorees were thrilled by the ceremony and the gifts. Commissioners would love to have a Joint Resolution before the legislature again for honorees in the future. Timing is more difficult in short session years such as 2016 because the legislature will only be in the Capitol for short periods during legislative days but we will see about such an honor for the Women of Achievement this year. The WOA ceremony was held in March to coincide with Women's History Month. Serena

Stoudamire Wesley from the Governor's office also helped make it possible for the Governor to stop by to congratulate the honorees and have photos taken with her.

For next year, the OCFW would like to increase the number of nominations. In September they will begin working on a resolution for the winners with the legislature.

Trish Garner suggested contacting the House Majority Leader to accomplish the resolution. Chair Spencer has developed a work plan for the WOA which reflects all the needed steps and timelines for an event in the Capitol that will make the job easier as the OCFW moves ahead with hosting the WOA on its own.

Commissioner Vardavas requested that Lucy & Nancy bring this to the other OACs starting now.

Other observations included the small size of the ceremonial room. The Governor's conference room adjoining the ceremonial room might be a better-sized venue for the WOA.

- B. Legislative wrap up of OCFW advocacy in 2016 Short Session –Ty Schwoeffermann and the Commissioners discussed what was accomplished in the 2016 session. A summary of all the OAC's legislative priorities will be forthcoming.

SB 1533A - Inclusionary Zoning. PASSED. Ceremony to follow. Would give new housing constructions projects with 20 or more units would include affordable housing. 80% of median local income is considered to be affordable. This provides the cities a tool for negotiating this rate. On the Governor's agenda.

HB 4143 - Housing Eviction Protection - Tenant Protection bill. PASSED. Expand notice from 30 days to 90 days. More than one bill was combined for this bill. Work group that was established before session will continue (Sen. Dembrow and Rep. Keny-Guyer are involved in this work group).

SB 1571 - Testing of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits – PASSED. Commissioner Vardavas championed this bill and reached out to Senator Gelser during session to express the OCFW's support for this bill passing. This bill was passed and fully funded, bringing on several FTE at the Oregon crime lab to begin the increased testing schedule. In the 2017 session there will also be a related budget note to complete the backlog during the next biennium. The OCFW will continue to watch this bill moving forward.

SB 1574 - Healthy Climate Bill. PASSED. This bill was the subject of intense debate and amendments. Commissioner Swanson was the champion for this bill and submitted testimony, although she was unable to give her in-person testimony because of the high numbers of those invited to testify before she needed to leave.

HB 4017 - Basic Health Plan. PASSED. Requires the state to develop a plan. The final bill wording specifies that plan will not include dental but has no co-pay for low income individuals. This was part of the intense legislative negotiations while the bill was in committee. In the coming year, a committee will form led by Rep Greenlick. Rep Greenlick will be speaking to AHO on April 12th about the bill and the next steps in plan development.

HB 4036 - Clean Energy & Community Solar Panels. PASSED. This bill was also the subject of intense debates and ends the use of coal in Oregon and it also allows low income residents to participate in solar energy programs at a reduced cost. The OAC's joined a coalition of community partners to support assuring the final bill maintained is low income solar provisions.

During discussion, the OCFW asked about the specifics regarding the solar option on whether it will be rental of the panels or ownership of them. Ty will look into this and get back to Chair Spencer. Rural Oregon may receive the biggest benefit from investing in solar.

HB 4128 - Notario Fraud bill. PASSED. Led by OCHA, the OAC's were connected to this from the beginning including the original bill in the 2015 session, the task force which met last summer to develop the 2016 bill wording, and advocacy for the 2016 bill.

Feedback on OCFW's 2016 legislative process:

Chair Spencer solicited feedback from the Commissioners on how the OCFW's legislative prioritizing, updates, and support process went for the 2016 legislative session. It was the first session to have Ty's support and the OCFW also worked to identify bill champions among Commissioners to help the support process, including writing testimony and staying in touch with lead legislators go more smoothly and efficiently.

Commissioners and staff responded with ideas including:

- Get started earlier for the upcoming session. Early submission bills go in in September.
- Get an earlier start on Legislative Concepts.
- Every priority bill will have a commissioner champion.
- Remember that bills “drop” in September, 2016 which means that bills must be submitted to Legislative Counsel for drafting.
 - Ty and Senator Dembrow will provide a training for all Advocacy Commissioners on how to be effective in the interim.
 - To keep up with bill hearing deadlines, testimony could be written early and buff as needed when it is time. Fact sheets were hugely helpful when they could be provided and those are the meat of the testimony. These came about from the OAC's relationship with the State Library Reference Division.
- Weekly conference calls were effective and will continue to do these during long session, maybe only every other week.
- Plan to cast a wider net to find all bills of interest to OCFW.
- Ask legislators who are working on emerging equity issues to contact Ty early in the outset.

Legislators can submit as many bills as they want, but first-timers will have less.

1. Ratification of e-votes

Nancy read the list of bills on which the OCFW e-voted since the last Commission meeting to support with testimony

- i. SB 1533A, Inclusionary Zoning
- ii. SB 1571, Testing of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits
- iii. SB 1574, Healthy Climate Bill
- iiii. HB 4017, Basic Health Plan
- v. HB 4036, Clean Energy & Community Solar Panels

- vi. HB 4128, Notario Fraud
- vii. HB 4143, Housing Eviction Protection

MOTION (Vardavas/Malstrom): To ratify the electronic votes of the OCFW to support the bills as read into the record. CARRIED.

2. Priorities for 2017 legislative session:

Ty is working with the Commissions, community and state partners and interested legislators to develop a list. He requested Commissioners and legislators connect with him regarding any topics of interest for 2017 session equity oriented bills. Historically, December is the time that the Advocacy Commissions will host a joint meeting with interested legislators and state and community partners to hear about upcoming equity-oriented bills in the upcoming big session. These updates are used by the OAC's to inform their bill selection and prioritization for their legislative support in 2017 session.

C. AAUW and OCFW Lobby Day recap

Chair Spencer, Commissioner Cancel-Tirado, a group of 6 of her public health students, and Lucy attended the AAUW's and OCFW's joint lobby day on February 10th at the Capitol.

Rep. Carla Piluso and Senator Diane Rosenbaum spoke about the key issues for women in the 2016 session. There was also a panel on poverty, minimum wage and housing with Emily Evans (Oregon Women's Foundation) and Andrea Paluso (Family Forward.) After the presentations, the Commissioners, along with the WOU students visited legislators. Doris and her students spoke with President Courtney about issues in the 2016 session. Barbara spoke with legislators about the OCFW to raise awareness including Sen. Gelser and Rep. Williamson.

Trish Garner, the AAUW's Legislative Chair, applauded Doris for bringing the WOU students, some of color, to lobby day. It was a huge success with twice as many attendees as last year.

D. Family Preservation Collaborative

Chair Spencer and Vice Chair Rodriguez-Montegna updated the OCFW on the now-submitted application to Oregon Solutions on the Commissions' request for their interviews of key stakeholders on programs in support of incarcerated parents and their children. Yesterday Chair Spencer spoke to a Project Manager at Oregon Solutions regarding the pre-assessment with stakeholder interviews, the cost of which is covered by the legislature. If, after the pre-assessment is complete, the project is accepted then Oregon Solutions would provide a facilitator for the full project discussion and analysis. Each stakeholder will be requested to consider how it will contribute to cover the cost of the full project, OCFW included, but there will be many stakeholders many of which may have funds to contribute.

Vice Chair Rodriguez-Montegna added that the model Oregon Solutions uses is Collective Impact. For OCFW, their longstanding interest is "How can we help children of incarcerated parents not fall into the cycle of incarceration?" This frame can include children's organizations, incarcerated person organizations, education programs, stable family organizations and others.

Jessica noted that it would be very helpful for OCFW to compile a list of people who are knowledgeable on this issue to have Sara Giles speak with them. Lucy will work with the Commissioners to prepare a list of suggested people and get it to Jessica and Barbara. Jessica also reminded the Commission that in projects with Oregon Solutions, no organization is put in a leadership role. The stakeholder organizations all serve as participants with Oregon Solutions facilitating.

Chair Spencer would like to meet with Susan Stoltenberg at the YWCA to discuss future options.

The proposal is appended to these minutes.

Emlyn Foxen's paper was reposted earlier this week on the OCFW website with some updates.

After discussion the Commissioners felt that it is important to reach out Heidi Stewart and Nichole Brown the Deputy Director and Program Coordinator for the Oregon Dept. of Corrections respectively about the OCFW's request to OS. Commissioner Vardavas knows Heidi from their work on Sen. Shields' task force in 2014. She is available until May. Jessica may be able to attend as well. Lucy will request the meeting

Chair Spencer will plan a trip to Coffee Creek this summer.

V. New Business

- A. Strategic plan update The Commission discussed elements of their recent strategic planning work which are appended to these minutes. They considered whether to develop a vision statement. Commissioner Vardavas will develop a survey from the vision statement wording developed during strategic planning. It may include issues brought up during the OCFW's meeting in Corvallis.
- B. Women's Bureau of Labor – Chair Spencer was contacted by Betty Locke who is the Administrator of the USDOL, Women's Bureau in Seattle. As part of her work, she meets regularly with Oregon Labor Commissioner Avakian. She has a longstanding interest in apprenticeships and pay equity and would like to co-host a Roundtable discussion with the OCFW that could be opened, through streaming, or teleconferencing to other parts of the state. Women's economic security is an important issue to the OCFW and Barbara welcomed the opportunity for the Commission to work with Ms. Locke and possibly BOLI and others to host the conversation.
- C. Other Business
 1. Listen to Her Tour - Chair Spencer reported of Oregon Women's Foundation, Listen To Her state tour. They are organizing listening sessions in 7 locations across Oregon as they release their new report of the Status of Oregon Women. OCFW has been actively supporting the development of the report and Chair Spencer encouraged all interested Commissioners to attend the Women's Foundation listening sessions across the state.

In the Portland area, listening sessions will be held on March 31 at PSU or April 23 at PCC Cascade Campus. OCFW is committed to helping have good attendance at these meetings around the state.

Lucy offered to work with Serena Stoudamire Wesley to help arrange a special information session for the Governor's interested Policy Advisors on the State of Oregon Women report with the Oregon Women's Foundation.

Once the report is released, OCFW will consider developing recommendations associated with its findings.

2. Chair Spencer noted that the OCFW's Committees need to focus on these again begin their work on policy research and advocacy in the areas of Women's Economic Security and Health. She would like to have updates from each committee added to the agenda at the next OCFW regular meeting in May, along with individual updates from each OCFW Commissioner to share their community work.

VI. Administrator's Report

A. OACO Financial Report

Lucy discussed the most February financial report which was sent last week to OCFW. It reflects the \$4,500 of Other Funds transferred from the Friends of the OCFW as it closed. Next week, Lucy expects to receive the General Fund February projections for the OACO budget and will share it with all Commissioners in March. It will show the additions to all state agency budgets that balance the salary portion of each budget with the results of labor and other negotiations. This will help balance the staffing shortfalls in the budget that have been ongoing in OACO's budget since the start of the biennium in July.

Lucy and Nancy attended the 2017-19 State Budget Kick-Off meeting with the state's CFO, George Naughton. His main points included that, while there will be no cap on the amount that any state agency can request (last biennium there was a 20% cap) he reminded all agencies that due to slow state recovery and PERS negotiations that budget increases may be low or none.

In April and May, Lucy will work with the Commissions, the CFO's and Governor's Office to develop the 2017-19 OACO Request Budget. Following discussions on OACO staffing with each of the OAC's this spring it will include a request to increase the .5 FTE Policy Analyst to 1 FTE and add a .25 FTE Office Assistant to help ease the administrative work of the Office and free Nancy to provide research project management to OAC committees.

VII. Good of the Order

A. Next OCFW meeting Friday, May 20th

B. Other announcements:

Trish Garner reported that there are a series of shows called We Are Proud to Present... which talk openly about issues of race and are very worthwhile. Reduced price tickets are available for young people available through Trish.

Clara looks forward to seeing OCFW more in person. Very excited to be a part.

Senator Monnes Anderson - thanks to OCFW and staff for their efforts during short session. She and Rep Komp welcomes any input on how things went for Commissioners participating with testimony or in connecting with legislators and tracking bills. Chair Spencer asked that the Senator keep the OCFW apprised of any early legislative concepts.

VIII. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 2:18pm by common consent.

Five years from today...

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.

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.

These outcomes build on the path paved by strong women leaders – from Governors Barbara Roberts and Kate Brown to House Speaker Tina Kotek and Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, to Columbia Sportswear CEO Gert Boyle and (other woman CEO).

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 on women's issues. 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 on women's issues.

President of the Senate and Speaker of the House brief the OACs before long session

Governor's office seeks guidance on women's issues

Women of Achievement Awards is once again a bigger public event

The OCFW is widely known in the legislature and the community as a resource on women's issues

Women have equal access to economic resources and opportunity

Women receive equal pay in all jobs

There is transparency of income

The Oregon legislature looks like the state's demographic

Oregon is #1 in seating women in the legislature

The composition of state boards and commissions includes one-half women, and 15-20% women of color

The percentage of women in positions of corporate leadership is proportional to the percentage of women in the state's population

Women have full representation in leadership positions

35% of CEOs of NGOs and major corporations are women

Reproductive autonomy for women and teens (2)

Childcare is affordable and available statewide, proportionate to income (2)

Paid parental leave (1)

Affordable housing (1)

No women in prison (1)