



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 25, 2021, 6:30-8:30pm

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

- a. **Commissioners Present:** Nirmala Bandrapalli, Aileen Cassinetto, Sue Datta, Anya Drabkin, Cheryl Fama, Kelly Keele, Susan Kokores, Melissa Lukin, Marguerite Machen, Christine Padilla, Maya Tussing, Penelope Stinson, Anisha Weber, Cate Warden, Candra Williams
Staff: Tanya Beat, Juda Tolmasoff
Supervisor Groom and County Counsel Monali Sheth
- b. **Absent:** Ann Girard, Dana Linda, Karen Pyles, Ellen Tafeen

3. **Public Comment** - none

4. **Action to Set Agenda and Approve Consent Agenda Items**

Move agenda item #9 before #8 by Maya Tussing. Motion by Cheryl Fama. Seconded by Nirmala Bandrapalli. Approved by all present.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Adopt a resolution finding that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.**

Motion to approve by Nirmala Bandrapalli. Seconded by Susan Kokores. Approved by all present.

6. **Approval of November 2021 Minutes (action)**

7. **2022 Calendar of CSW Meetings**

REGULAR AGENDA

8. **RISE 2022 Conference Updates**

- **Keynotes**

“We have a wonderful women’s leadership conference planned and your volunteer efforts to create, organize and moderate sessions is extremely valued. I appreciate the opportunity to update you on the status of our upcoming Rise 2022 Women’s Leadership Conference and a change in keynote speakers.

We invited Ms. Zahra Billoo to serve as a keynote speaker, addressing the impact of [Islamophobia on women and girls in our community]. After extending the invitation, however, we learned of remarks she made at a conference in November 2021, which are not consistent with the goal of the San Mateo County Women’s Leadership Conference of providing a welcoming space for women and girls from all backgrounds to connect freely and inclusively regarding topics that support women and girls in our community. Ms. Billoo’s remarks do not align with the core values of the Commission on the Status of Women or San Mateo County. We informed Ms. Billoo of our need to rescind the invitation and make other keynote speaker arrangements. Ms. Billoo has expressed her

disappointment in our action, but we remain confident this is the best approach for the County, the Commission and — most importantly — our conference participants. Lastly, the person who was to join her in this keynote conversation, Haleema Bharoocha, has declined participating.”

Request from Commission to County Counsel: to receive a statement on how to respond should the public ask us about this keynote. Commissioners can send people to staff (Tanya Beat).

Morning Keynote: Sallie Krawcheck

Closing Keynote: Lan Phan

- **Speakers** - Please see smcwomenlead.org for a list of all speakers
- **Sessions** – Agenda for March 23 & 24 is fully listed on website. Please send Tanya session descriptions or titles if those need updated.

9. Welcome Aileen Cassinetta & 2022 Intentions

- New Commissioner Aileen Cassinetta started this month! Poet and publisher of women’s writings. From the Philippines and poetry has helped her reclaim her agency and autonomy. As San Mateo County Poet Laureate, she is mandated to make poetry more accessible to everyone in San Mateo County.
 - If you have recommendations for self-care or wellness that you practice, please send that one thing to Tanya and I’ll put them all together and share out with everyone via email.

10. Youth Commission Report

- **Sexual Assault Resolution: two avenues**
 - i. Collect Data and how to address sexual assault resolution.
 - ii. Plan a community hearing with all schools in SMC. Focus on sexual assault in schools. The goal is to get more information out there from this hearing.
 1. Brainstorm what a Hearing could be like at Feb Commission meeting.
- Declaration of Educational Equity
- Immigrant Youth Committee: Know Your Rights workshop - March 26 possible date

11. Wellness Break

12. Sub-Committee Planning

- **Review of 2021 Accomplishments (break outs)**
- **Planning for 2022 (break outs)**
 - i. Break outs for sub-committees. Discuss Accomplishments. 20 minutes. Note-taker. Facilitator. Then will share out after break outs.
 - ii. Sharing:
 1. Women’s Leadership (Anisha Weber, Juda Tolmasoff): accomplished more than what we initially thought. Identifying speakers & sessions for conference; majority of this group sit on two committees and we liaison between different projects. Organized Women’s Equality Day. Future goals: connecting with conference audience after the event; deeper dive on topics between conferences.
 2. Conference & Women’s Hall of Fame (Tanya Beat, Kelly Keele, Christine Padilla): accomplished a great 2020 conference that included Aimee Allison, Jackie Speier, Women’s Equality Day. Future goals: An established Speaker document that is ongoing and dynamic to collect information on all speakers. Includes a “due diligence” area and asking all commissioners to contribute to vetting is important. Ensuring Women’s Hall of Fame is in-person on May 11.
 3. Mental Health & Wellness Group (Anya Drabkin, Cheryl Fama, Sue Datta, Nirmala Bandrapalli, Karen Pyles, Ellen Tafeen, Marguerite Machen, Aileen Cassinetta):

accomplished connecting with more service providers such as Lived Experience Education Workgroup, BHRS; Mental Health Awareness month & Suicide Prevention Awareness month public comment in most cities; Assessment of mental health stakeholders to identify priority needs; Care Solace presentation to CSW; interest in a Women's Center and funding. Future Goals include connecting with the Mental Health Services Commission - perhaps a CSW liaison to join that commission; establish our network and broaden our reach.

4. Economic Empowerment Group (Maya Tussing, Susan Kokores, Ann Girard, Candra Williams, Melissa Lukin): accomplished an established network in the three areas of their focus – business development, childcare and financial wellness. Presented to Supervisor Groom about their work plan; Future goals: potential business recognition with the Women's Hall of Fame; continue research on topics and continue to meet every other week.
5. Please provide to Tanya one goal for each group; Possible CSW retreat in July to brainstorm and decide what you want to work on for the next two years.

13. CCSWG Women's Recovery Response Grant Discussion

- Met with County: they are able to fiscally manage the funds. We may have to seek approval from the BOS for large amounts.
- Who, What, and Partners
 - i. Economic Empowerment: Maya Tussing, Susan Kokores, Carolina Nugent – re-granting and give funds to child care centers. Maya Tussing will be the main point person. Receiving help from Christine Padilla as well.
 - ii. Leadership: Susan Kokores – possible regrants for scholarships (specific to young women) for the SMC Leadership Council. Possible staff person.
 - iii. Mental Health & Wellness: not sure yet what they are planning
 - iv. Conference & WHoF & other events: requesting funds for virtual platforms or for the Women's Hall of Fame
 - v. The structure of the application is broken into categories. Tanya will be pulling together all of your pieces into this one application. Chances are good to receive this funding.
- Process: Because this is a short turn around time, Tanya will need program narratives, budget narratives and budget sheets by Sunday night or Monday morning. Tanya will pull everything together to submit to County Counsel and HR accounting for review and revisions. The grant is due Friday, February 4th. Tanya will only include in the grant what you provide her.
- Please schedule time to meet with me for more support and any questions about what is needed.

14. Adjournment

The **Commission on the Status of Women Group** agree to arrive on time/start on time; take turns speaking; speak loud enough for everyone to hear; be courteous of other opinions; listen to hear a different perspective than your own; mute phones; allow the chair to guide the process; Chair will check in about remaining time at 8:15 PM.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular or special meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to members of the Commission. Those public records are available online and for public inspection at the Human Resources Department located at 455 County Center, 5th floor, Redwood City, CA 94063 by appointment. The public records may also be transmitted electronically by emailing tbeat@smcgov.org or calling 650-363-4467. **IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**, auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days' notice. Please call 650-363-4467 (voice) or email tbeat@smcgov.org to make such a request.