



Governor Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg  
San Wong, Director

**MINUTES**  
**Iowa Commission on the Status of Women**  
**February 7, 2018**  
**Conference call**  
**11 a.m. to noon**

**Commissioners present**

Phyllis Peters, chair  
Sean Bagniewski  
Tom Carnahan  
David Gudenkauf  
Rachelle Hunt Russian  
Sherill Whisenand  
Elizabeth Coonan

**Commissioners absent**

None

**DHR/ICSW staff**

Kristen Corey, Program Planner, Office on the Status of Women  
Monica Stone, Deputy Director, Department of Human Rights  
Carolyn Green, Intern, Office on the Status of Women

**Members of the public - present for all or part of the meeting**

None

**Call to order**

Called to order by Chair Phyllis Peters at 11:04 p.m.

**Approval of agenda**

Motion to approve February 7<sup>th</sup> agenda made by Gudenkauf; seconded by Carnahan.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Commission plan of work**

Peters opened up the floor to discussion on the four initiatives covered in the January 11<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Commissioners discussed and volunteered for the following projects:

**Iowa Women at Work Project**

Volunteers for this project:



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- Rachelle Hunt Russian
- Beth Coonan
- Tom Carnahan

### **Talent Bank Project**

Volunteers for this project:

- Sherill Whisenand
- Phyllis Peters (until the end of term)

### **Legislative Committee**

Coonan stated that at a bare minimum, the Commission should be maintaining a list of issues that are important to the Commission and to women in Iowa. She added that the Commission should have some sort of documentation/clearinghouse that the Commission/Office maintains in the background for developing legislative strategy.

Carnahan added that the Commission should maintain some sort of liaison with the legislature and the Governor's office because legislative action does not start happening when the legislative session opens. He added that he sees part of the Commission's duties as to keep ears to the ground and form relationships with legislators/leaders/various organizations.

Stone added that the Governor's office welcomes the Commission's advice.

Several commissioners volunteered to work on this committee:

- Phyllis Peters (until the end of term)
- Dave Gudenkauf
- Tom Carnahan

Stone added that the Commission could look at the elements that are most important for the Commission and for women in the state. She added that the Commission's input helps inform the Office about what is most important to monitor.

Stone suggested that the Commission could develop a report, such as looking at employment as one of the key indicators for women in Iowa (i.e., wage gap, employment) and then monitor bills that would impact that. She added that when done on a regular basis, the Commission can track progress from year to year.

Hunt Russian asked what sort of other issues come up from the other commissions in the Community Advocacy and Services Division.

Stone answered that employment comes up in the majority of the other commissions (i.e., employment, job training and income). She said there are shared issues across every one of our commissions, such as healthcare, mental health, power and representation within influencers (i.e., people elected to office, appointed to boards and commissions, etc.).

Corey added that with the help of her intern, Carolyn Green, she and Stone will be touching base with other commissions within CAS to get their legislative priorities to share with ICSW commissioners.



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Carnahan, Gudenkauf, and Peters agreed to collaborate over the phone to come up with a few statements on Commission priorities.

#### **Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Selection Committee**

Volunteers for the committee include:

- Beth Coonan
- Sherill Whisenand
- Sean Bagniewski (was suggested from the Commission); Dave Gudenkauf as back-up

Peters added that within the committee, the committee would appoint a chair and public members. She asked commissioners if there was anything else they felt was missing that should be worked on as a priority or initiative. By consensus, commissioners agreed there were not.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Carnahan, seconded by Gudenkauf.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kristen Corey, staff.