

MINUTES
Iowa Commission on the Status of Women meeting
December 2, 2020
Location: Conference Call/Google Meet
Time: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Commissioners present (in person or by phone)

Beth Coonan (Chair)
Rachelle Hunt Russian (Vice-Chair)
Wendy Musgrave
Matthew Gilbert
Michael Fleming
Tom Carnahan

Commissioners absent

Sherill Whisenand

DHR/ICSW staff

Monica Stone, Deputy Director

Members of the public (present for all or part of meeting)

None

Call to order

Called to order by Chair Coonan at 9:01 a.m.

Approval of December 2, 2020 agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by Hunt-Russian; seconded by Carnahan.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Approval of September 18, 2020 minutes

Motion of approve minutes made by Fleming; seconded by Musgrave.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Department/Office Update

Stone provided an update on Department initiatives and the status of filling staff positions. Stone also updated the Commission on the Talent Bank and the connections made with Michigan, Oklahoma and Kansas Commissions on Women regarding potential Talent Bank projects.

Shaw gave an overview of the Department's data initiative to provide decision makers and lowans with clear data on the status of all of the populations represented within the Department (Women, African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Deaf, Persons with Disabilities, Native Americans, and Latinos).

Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Selection Committee report

Musgrave updated the Commission with a reminder of the script each received in October, drafted by Whisenand. Musgrave will resend the script with request for a video reading from the assigned Commissioners. The Commission discussed the video format and determined that each Commissioner would complete the video in their own environment (home, in office, etc.).

Old/New Business:

Gilbert led a discussion regarding information received from the RISE Foundation regarding the opportunity to improve how Iowa Code defines domestic violence, and how law enforcement is trained to respond.

The Commission discussed the impact of COVID-19 on domestic violence, law enforcement challenges, and the need for the Commission to better understand the specific issues facing us in Iowa.

Chair Coonan reminded the Commission that the Commission's role is to understand how these issues impact women. All agreed that additional information was needed, and requested staff to provide follow-up.

Chair Coonan updated Commissioners on the ERA project; the video has been disseminated, and now that we are post-election, another request will be made of Senator Ernst's office to participate in a town hall.

Chair Coonan led a discussion on new project opportunities. She described the Women @ Work project and the Commission discussed the need to better understand workforce needs for women in Iowa.

Chair Coonan then suggested that a survey of Commissioners be circulated to assess interest in continuing with existing areas of emphasis and/or to identify new areas of emphasis for the Commission. Commissioners identified topics to

include within the survey. Stone will create and provide the survey to Commissioners with a due date of December 15, 2020.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion to adjourn Carnahan; seconded by Gilbert.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.