

ICSW Meeting Minutes

4/15/2021

Call to order at 9:04 by chair Beth Coonan

Present: Elizabeth Coonan, Rachelle Hunt Russian, William (Mike) Fleming, Sherill Whisenand, Matt Gilbert, San Wong, Ex-officio

Staff: Kim Cheeks, Monica Stone

Approval agenda – Whisenand motion, 2nd Russian, aye – 5, motion carried

Approve minutes – Whisenand motion, 2nd Gilbert, ayes – 5, motion carried

Public Comment

Jennifer Margrett professor of Human Development and Aging, Lisa Thrane, project coordinator – Iowa State University – Propel Project

Margrett and Thrane provided information to the Commission regarding the Propel Project, which is a new program to study resilient aging. The website for the program is propel@iastate.edu

Department of Human Rights/CAS Division update

Director Wong updated the Commission on workforce initiatives, and how those initiatives are related to the COVID impact on women.

Stone updated the Commission on the work the Department is doing related to health equity to broaden the response to health issues from only focusing on COVID to include social determinants of health. This broader work will focus on resiliency, recovery, and examine how we respond to future emergency events.

Stone also provided a summary of the legislative session and an update on the Iowa Accountability Program (IAP). The new grant proposal for IAP will allow the program to be available statewide, not just pinned to 3 counties, and will be connected to courts with 24-hour access for protective orders,

OSW Report update

Cheeks submitted the attached written report.

Iowa Women's Hall of Fame 2020 / 2021

The Commission discussed how to honor both the 2020 and 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees in an effective manner using a virtual format. It was decided that two videos would be developed, one for each year of honorees, and shown together in a virtual event in 2021.

Commissioners asked how past Hall of Fame events were staffed and funded. Stone provided information about the past events, which were largely funded and staffed by the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women. Stone understands that the Friends may still wish to fund

portions of the event, but is no longer able to provide staffing. Coonan offered to follow up with the Friends group to determine their interest in involvement going forward.

Russian left the meeting 10:00 am

Selection committee

The Commission determined that they would keep the selection committee as is to include Coonan, Whisenand, Fleming, and Musgrave, but would select a new chair. The Commission determined that Whisenand should be Chair.

As Chair, Whisenand will appoint two members from the public

Coonan asked of the state had established any protocol for events. Stone indicated that the Department has not established a time to return to in-person work in the office, and that there are currently not standards or protocols in place regarding in-person or virtual events for state government.

Old/New Business

ERA update

The Commission was approached by Doris Kelley to host roundtable to discuss the ERA with Senators Ernst and Grassley. At this time, the Senator's offices have not confirmed their availability to participate.

Coonan will contact Doris Kelley to determine next steps.

Strategic Planning

Coonan/Stone/Cheeks discussed the Commission's interests in developing a plan that would include roles and responsibilities for commission and staff. Coonan will put together working group to come up with plan to navigate duties and responsibilities; reach out to Beth if you want to be a part of the committee.

Legislative Agenda / Iowa Legislative Bill update

Stone let the Commission know that the Department monitors bills that impact the Department, and that may not include all of the bills the Commission may be interested in monitoring. The Commission may consider establishing bill topic priorities for monitoring purposes, as the Commission on Women, all bills could potentially be of interest at some level.

Coonan discussed the need to set priorities for the Commission and to look at working on the policy agenda document at the next meeting. Gilbert championed the Commission considering being more connected to the cadence of legislative agenda setting, and to consider setting agendas in the late summer.

Proposal to add commission reports to agenda

Cheeks suggested that the Commissioners consider adding a section to the agenda to allow each Commissioner to report on their work toward Commission initiatives.

Whisenand recommended that Commissioners adopt this and Fleming, Gilbert, and Coonan supported. Stone reminded Commissioners that there is a Google Drive that serves as an intranet for Commissioners where they can store and share information as well.

Adjourn at 11:04 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Monica Stone, staff