



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

**MINUTES**  
**Iowa Commission on the Status of Women**  
**January 11, 2018, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
**Young Women's Resource Center**  
**818 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Des Moines, Iowa**

**Commissioners present (in person or by phone)**

Phyllis Peters, chair  
Tom Carnahan  
David Gudenkauf  
Rachelle Hunt Russian  
Sherill Whisenand  
Beth Coonan

**Commissioners absent**

Sean Bagniewski

**DHR/ICSW staff**

Kristen Corey, Program Planner, Office on the Status of Women  
Monica Stone, Deputy Director, Department of Human Rights  
San Wong, Director, Department of Human Rights  
Brett Norris, Intern, Office on the Status of Women

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

- Carla Tillman, Program Analyst, Women's Bureau, Region 7
- Olivia Shuckman, Program Analyst, Women's Bureau, Region 7
- Angelina Purdy, currently employed with AmeriGroup Iowa; used to work with Planned Parenthood of the Heartland

**Call to order**

Called to order by Chair Phyllis Peters at 10:05 a.m.

**Approval of agenda**

Motion to approve January 11<sup>th</sup> agenda made by Gudenkauf; seconded by Carnahan.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

**Approval of previous minutes**

**Minutes from October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Motion to approve minutes from October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 made by Whisenand; seconded by Gudenkauf.

Vote:

Aye: all



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No: 0  
Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

Angelina Purdy introduced herself. She mentioned that she was on the call to see what commission meetings entail.

Carla Tillman and Olivia Shuckman from the Women's Bureau (Region 7 – Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa) introduced themselves to the group and explained what they do for the Women's Bureau. They mentioned they are interested in a potential partnership in the future, possibly related to the Iowa Women at Work project. Tillman mentioned that they will be setting something up with Corey at a later time to discuss what a partnership might look like.

### **Iowa Department of Human Rights Update**

Monica Stone gave an update for the Iowa Department of Human Rights. She mentioned that the Department had submitted an Iowa Access grant proposal to cover the costs of building the Iowa Talent Bank, which will be a comprehensive tool for women at local and state levels of government to sign up for service on boards/commissions and mentorship opportunities.

She also gave a short update on projects happening within the Division of Community Advocacy and Services and also the Divisions of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning and Division of Community Action Agencies.

Peters asked Stone if the revenue estimating conference changed the Department's estimates on the budget.

Stone stated that the budget submitted to the Governor was a status quo budget for the Department. She had not yet heard if there would be a budget rescission for the current fiscal year. She added that the state could have a mid-year budget reduction. If that happens, the impact to DHR would primarily be in youth program areas.

Corey gave an update for the Office on the Status of Women and her work for the Community Advocacy and Services (CAS) division. This included the launch of the Iowa Women at Work initiative in late December and communications work (i.e., social media, e-mail newsletters, etc.) for the CAS division and DHR as a whole.

### **Recap of meeting with Gov's office**

Peters, Coonan and Carnahan provided an update to the Commission on the meeting the group had with the Governor's staff on ways for the Commission and the Governor's office to partner in the future.

Commissioners expressed interest in routinely providing input to the Governor's office.

### **Discussion: Commission plan of work for the next fiscal year**

Peters, Coonan and Carnahan provided an update to the Commission on a planning call the planning task force had with Stone and Corey on January 5<sup>th</sup>.



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Peters mentioned that there are different roles served by the Commission and Department staff, as well as the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. She added that moving forward, the three entities could work together on a number of different initiatives.

Peters mentioned that the four projects the planning task group talked about were:

- The Iowa Women at Work initiative
- The Talent Bank
- Having a legislative committee and setting a policy agenda
- The Hall of Fame 2018 selection committee

#### *Iowa Women at Work project*

Coonan expressed interest in working on the Iowa Women at Work project and mentioned that there would be potential ways to partner with other entities, such as the Governor's office or others.

Stone suggested that the Iowa Women at Work story-telling project is a great way to start the conversation, but it would also be a good idea to pull in the data to go with it to create change.

Peters asked commissioners if they wanted the project to take off, how commissioners could help that happen.

Coonan mentioned that she wants to do some small group strategic planning around the project. Carnahan mentioned that he would like to volunteer to help work on the project.

Stone mentioned that she thinks the group could take the next steps to make recommendations. She suggested the Commission could look at the data and recommend what needs to happen. This could be in the form of a report that the Commission could update on a regular basis.

Peters asked if by consensus the Commission wanted to further discuss and flesh out how the Commission takes action on this project. She asked if the Commission wanted to make this one of their initiatives from this point forward.

By consensus: yes.

Hunt Russian asked if when the task group thought about these four initiatives, if the group thought about prioritizing the projects.

The group discussed the ways in which these projects were chosen as the four potential projects/initiatives for the Commission. Peters answered that in addition to these projects, there are other groups/projects that might emerge that are temporary and not long-lasting projects (such as the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment centennial celebration that the League of Women Voters is spearheading).

#### *Iowa Talent Bank*

Stone provided a short update on the Iowa Talent Bank and added that Karla Fultz McHenry and Director San Wong chair the Iowa Talent Bank Steering Committee. Several DHR staff are involved in the steering committee and project, as well as commissioners Whisenand and Peters. Peters said there will be ways for commissioners to get involved in the project in its future phases after the data tool is developed and operational.



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#### *Legislative committee and policy agenda*

Peters mentioned that the Commission may want to think about a long-term plan and asked if commissioners wanted to set a 2018 agenda. She asked if at the end of 2018, the Commission wanted to do any hearings for next session. The Commission could take some of the information received, whether it's from the Iowa Women at Work project or other issues the Commission is concerned about. She added that the legislative committee could take a longer view and extend into the following year. She asked if there was any interest or suggestions on how the Commission frames up a legislative/policy agenda.

Stone mentioned that it is important to build relationships and create long-term relationships and do long-term planning.

Peters asked what commissioners wanted to commit to and if there were volunteers to work on the legislative piece.

Hunt Russian suggested that commissioners interested in working on the different projects could send Peters a message letting her know what they were interested in working on.

Coonan asked if the Office could provide the Commission a list of relevant bills for women in Iowa. Corey agreed to do that. Peters mentioned that an intern could reach out to other allied groups and see what their legislative agendas are.

Peters suggested that the Commission schedule a separate meeting to flesh out the projects the Commission will work on in the next several years.

By consensus the Commission agreed to convene by phone in early February to re-visit the four things talked about today and commit to the following projects:

- 1) Iowa Women at Work project
- 2) Iowa Talent Bank
- 3) Policy/legislative committee
- 4) Iowa Women's Hall of Fame selection committee

Gudenkauf asked if commissioners could be given the scope of work or description of the work pertaining to each initiative.

#### **Election of officers**

Commissioners tabled this discussion until after the re-appointment process.

#### **Set meeting dates for 2018**

Stone outlined the DHR legislative day on the hill, which will be March 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda in Des Moines. She added that immediately before the legislative event at the Capitol (12:30 to 2:30 p.m.) the CAS division will host a lunch for commissioners who want to attend. She added that this will be a chance for CAS commissioners to meet one another and to hear from CAS on the key legislative issues from the Division's perspective. She added that if commissioners want to provide a handout from the CAS division, division staff will have that available for commissioners to use.

Dates agreed to:

- February: phone call (Kristen will send out Doodle poll)



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- Spring date: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-5:30 p.m. after DHR legislative day
- Summer date: May/June (HOF call) – with new/reappointed commission

### **Other items**

Hunt Russian asked staff from the Women's Bureau about the work that they do. Carla Tillman and Olivia Shuckman outlined their work:

- A new director was hired under the new Administration.
- Some of their goals include:
  - Getting women into higher paying jobs in apprenticeships, STEM and access to higher paying jobs.
  - Getting more involved in states with affordable and adequate childcare.
  - Making sure women know their rights at work, such as for pregnancy accommodation.
  - Supporting female entrepreneurs.
  - Supporting military spouses who move from state to state (and have professional licenses)
  - Supporting paid leave – Tillman added that the Women's Bureau is interested in trying to assess what the position is in Iowa as far as paid leave

Tillman and Shuckman mentioned that the way they get their message out is to hold a roundtable discussion or by helping with panel/information sessions. They also provide resources, such as research and publications. They expressed interest in working with the Commission/Office on the Iowa Women at Work project.

### **Adjournment**

Carnahan made the motion to adjourn. Gudenkauf seconded motion. Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Kristen Corey, staff.