



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

MINUTES

Iowa Commission on the Status of Women

January 26, 2016

Iowa Utilities Board building, conference room 1

1375 E. Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA

Commissioners present (in-person or by phone)

Phyllis Peters, chair

Beth Coonan

Rachelle Hunt Russian

Tom Carnahan (phone)

Aaron Sewell (phone)

Commissioners absent

David Gudenkauf

Sherill Whisenand

DHR/ICSW staff

Kristen Corey, Program Planner, Office on the Status of Women

Monica Stone, Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Human Rights

San Wong, Director, Iowa Department of Human Rights

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

Tom Rendon, Coordinator, Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office

Kristin Griffith, Director, Young Women's Resource Center

Call to order

Called to order by chair, Phyllis Peters at 10:09 a.m.

Motion to approve agenda from Jan. 26th, 2016:

Hunt Russian made motion; Carnahan seconded.

Aye: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

Motion to approve minutes from October 6th, 2015:

Carnahan made motion; Hunt Russian seconded.

Aye: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

Public comment

No comment.

Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR) update

Monica Stone gave an update for the Department. Stone introduced Sonia Reyes-Snyder, the newly hired Executive Officer for the Office of Latino Affairs. Stone also added that with the new Division of Community Advocacy and Services strategic plan, staff in the Division will be working more collaboratively between offices to focus on initiatives in four key areas: 1) language access, 2) civic engagement, 3) community connection, and 4) youth leadership.

Stone also touched on several events within the Department that happened since the last ICSW meeting, such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration and several community engagement sessions within the Asian and Pacific Islander community.

Stone invited all of the commissioners to the annual DHR open house place on the afternoon of March 2nd from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. She added that the annual DHR legislative breakfast will be held on March 3rd from 7 to 9 a.m., followed by an optional commission meeting from 9:30 to 11, and then by the DHR board meeting from 1 to 3 p.m.

Iowa Department of Human Rights Board update

Commissioner Coonan let the commission know there was no update since the last commission meeting.

Office on the Status of Women report

Corey reported on her work since the last commission meeting. Corey and commissioner Whisenand developed a process to open the 2016 Cristine Wilson award to the general public. She also added that she is continuously making updates to the website and that DHR is in the process of developing a social media policy as well as getting an updated listserv for all of the Division of Community Advocacy and Services. As part of her work, Corey will be writing a quarterly blog for Lift Iowa (a Business Record publication geared toward women leaders).

Corey outlined some of the other work that will take place in 2016, such as Capitol Girls, a Women's History Month Video contest in March, a panel on wage inequality in April, and a series of seminars for college women in April called "Build a Better Future". She added that she has been involved in the planning and implementation of two trainings geared toward judges and attorneys in Iowa related to working with human trafficking

cases in the justice system, which took place on January 25th in Davenport and would take place in Des Moines on January 27th.

Action Item: 2016 Cristine Wilson changes

Corey updated the commission on the Cristine Wilson procedural changes Whisenand and Corey drafted for the commission. Corey presented a newly created nomination form for the commission. Commissioners reviewed the nomination form and made suggestions for changes.

Since the commission is changing the procedure for the Cristine Wilson award, Hunt Russian asked:

- 1) If there is a requirement by the commission to notify the public about a change related to the Cristine Wilson award?
- 2) If the names the commission has in the pool did have public knowledge that they had been considered in the past for the Cristine Wilson award?
- 3) If 6 weeks was enough time for the public to put forth a Cristine Wilson nomination?

Chair Peters answered that there is no requirement in Iowa code about notifying the public to the change in procedure.

Corey added that to advertise the change in procedure, she will do a press release to announce the change and will also push out through DHR's networks. Peters added that Hall of Fame members and past Cristine Wilson award recipients could also be asked for potential nominations.

Several commissioners suggested wording changes to the proposed nomination form.

Motion to make changes to the Cristine Wilson nomination form with discussed revisions and approve as amended.

Coonan made motion; Carnahan seconded.

Aye: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

Commissioner Hunt Russian asked whether the people nominated for the Cristine Wilson award from last year would remain on the active nomination list. Commissioners discussed whether it would be better to start the nomination pool from scratch or to use the existing list compiled by the Office on the Status of Women over the years as a starting point.

Peters suggested that the past list of Cristine Wilson recipients be given to the 2016 selection committee. Corey added that she will provide e-mail addresses and contact

information for the list of Cristine Wilson recipients the office has on file and will send those to Peters, who will work with the 2016 selection committee.

Hunt Russian asked that the office develop an internal procedure for the Cristine Wilson award nomination.

Guest Speaker: Iowa Head Start

Tom Rendon, Coordinator for the Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office, presented to the commission about the Early Childhood Iowa Equity Advisory Committee and the state of early childhood initiatives in Iowa.

Rendon explained his affiliation with Early Childhood Iowa, whose goal is to build a coordinated set of services to support young children from birth to age 5.

Rendon stressed the importance of equity in early childhood education systems and presented findings to show the connection between the well-being of women and the well-being of children.

Rendon touched on the importance of prenatal care and maternal education as the best predictors for healthy child outcomes. He added that providing quality childhood education at an early age is especially important to success later on in life and stated that scientists are able to predict which kids are able to be 4th grade reading proficient (in 4th grade) by age 2.

Rendon also outlined several areas where he sees that the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women and Early Childhood Iowa have overlapping goals and some ideas for areas of collaboration where the goals for both organizations overlap.

Some of these ideas include:

- Early Childhood Iowa public engagement
- State Child Care Advisory Committee
- WAGE\$ project (ECI professional development)
- Looking at the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women's equity lens (bringing together diverse communities and making sure to address issues at a systemic level)

Peters asked Rendon who the strategic partners are from Early Childhood Iowa. Rendon explained the structure of ECI, including the state board with representatives from all major state departments, including the Iowa Department of Human Rights Director San Wong. Rendon stated that ECI is interested in partnering with some of the commissions within the Division of Community Advocacy and Services to serve on the equity advisory committee. He added that some of the additional partners include the childcare resource and referral agencies, Head Start, and the Division of Community Action Agencies within the Iowa Department of Human Rights.

Action item: Set future meeting dates

Peters asked commissioners if they would like to meet during the DHR day on March 3rd.

By consensus, the commission decided to hold its next meeting on March 3rd at 9:30 and on August 20th with possible phone meetings in between.

Follow-up discussion on 2016-2019 ICSW strategic plan key areas of focus & planning for 2016

Discussion tabled until the next commission meeting.

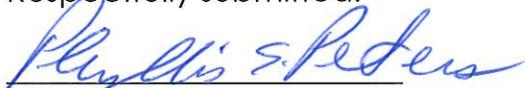
2016 Policy Discussion

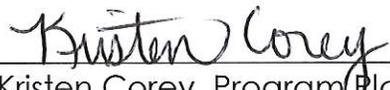
Discussion tabled until the next commission meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Peters adjourned the official portion of the meeting because the commission no longer had quorum. Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Phyllis Peters, Chair


Kristen Corey, Program Planner

