



To be the visible resource for Harford County women in their endeavor for social, political and economic equality

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**COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MINUTES**

Monday, February 28, 2022, 6:45 pm (Webex)

Call to Order: Chair Mary Hastler

Commissioners: *Present:* Mary Hastler, Chair; Jill Hamilton, Vice Chair; Joy Christmas; Kristi Halford; Bonnie Miranda; Alison Imhoff; Mary Teddy Wray; Stacey Rebbert; Roslyn Hannibal-Booker; Robin Tomechko; Cathy Ohler; *Absent:* Nancy Turner, Nafisabanu Multani

Guests: Barbara Kreamer, Charlene Chester

Staff: Sylvia Bryant

Approval of Minutes: The Commissioners reviewed and approved the Minutes as submitted from the January 31st, meeting.

Chairwoman's Report: Chair Mary Hastler welcomed the Commissioners to the meeting. The Harford County Department of Community Services collected baby diapers and wipes during the month of February and drop off locations were throughout the county including the 11 Library Branches.

Committee Update - Community Conversations - Ms. Hannibal-Booker provided an update on Community Conversations. It has been challenging with arranging speakers, dates, and details because of the impact of COVID, mandates and more. It was requested that the Commission think about new topics to explore and also provide a couple of tentative dates. This information will greatly assist in setting up a schedule of conversations. Ms. Bryant noted that the one topic to address again is human trafficking and specifically body parts. The Commission has held conversations on human trafficking, and this is another part of the problem needing awareness. Ms. Imhoff noted that SARC has a staff member who provides training on human trafficking and may be of

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assistance. Ms. Miranda noted that an entire section of last year's benchmarking report provides extensive resources into which we can tap. The draft will be distributed to the Commissioners to help provide a starting point for generating ideas for community conversations.

The Commission discussed the number of community conversations to host annually between April and November. They decided to do two:

- Financial Literacy for Women (virtual event), Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 6:30pm
- Words that Hurt (in person but may move to virtual depending on the metrics at that time), Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 6:30pm

Speaker suggestions should be forwarded to Ms. Hannibal-Booker.

Coordinator's Report: Ms. Bryant thanked Ms. Rebbert for sharing information on an upcoming training on critical race theory and the impact on women scheduled for February 21. Three notable speakers have been arranged and Ms. Bryant will send out this information tomorrow to make sure it is at the top of your inbox. Ms. Bryant reported that we have received 32 applications for the Women of Tomorrow awards to date and planning for the March 24 event is underway. Ms. Bryant mentioned that her office is recruiting for an AmeriCorps member and that Harford Community College is offering a class, Anyone Can Garden, Saturday, March 26, at HCC.

Women of Tomorrow Awards – Dr. Mary Teddy Wray, Chair, provided an update on the planning for the March 24 award ceremony. Each winner will receive \$500 and citations from the County Executive and County Council. Information on specifics for the night of the event will be sent to Commissioners and volunteer opportunities will be listed.

- a. Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022, 6:30pm; working to schedule in person event. Commissioners are asked to arrive by 5:30 p.m.
- b. Speaker (Woman of the Present): Robin Tomechko, 2021 Athena Award Recipient
- c. Venue: Richlin Catering & Event Center, 1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood
- d. Sponsors: (HCPL, Harford Mutual Insurance, Harford TV, Harford County Z-HOPE Foundation, Bravura, Inc.)
- e. Press Release and social media postings completed the day after the event
- f. Woman of the Past – Mazie Taylor

Maryland Commission for Women – Kristi Halford provided an update. The Maryland Commission report on Covid and the Impact of Women will be coming out soon. The Maryland Commission Policy & Legislative Committee is working on legislative issues and Ms. Halford provided a list of bills that the Maryland Commission for Women either supports or supports with conditions. These bills are HB 0153 & SB 0033; HB 0008 & SB

00275; HB 0296 & SB 280; HB0148 & SB 328; HB0454; HB0626; and Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 (bill not filed yet).

Committee Updates:

- Governance Committee – Chair Cathy Ohler – No report this month. Requested that copies of the most recent Bylaws be forwarded to Commissioners for review for needed revisions
- Membership Development Committee – Chair Joy Christmas – Ms. Christmas continues with board recruitment and asks that potential new Commissioners be referred to her.

Old Business: Commissioner Miranda distributed the Benchmarking Paper from 2020 to the Commission in February. Please review.

New Business: Ms. Kreamer attended the meeting as a guest to raise awareness and encourage gender neutral titles and words with the electoral process. Words matter and hidden sexism and sexist language hurts and may discourage women from seeking office. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Kreamer for bringing this forward.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 28, 2022, 6:45pm via WebEx

Adjourn: Motion was made to adjourn.