

N.C Council for Women Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2022, 10:00 am until 12:00 pm
This Meeting was Conducted Remotely by Zoom

Ethics Statement: The State Government Ethics Act mandates that, at the beginning of any meeting, the Chair remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to whether any member knows of any conflict or potential conflict with respect to matters to come before the Council.

Members Present: Annette Taylor, Chair, Liz Doherty, Dana O'Donovan, Elizabeth Outten, Dr. Patricia Parker (joined after roll call), Dr. Joyce Payne, Beth Posner, Judge Robin Robinson, Adrienne Spinner, Carrie Stewart, Judge Mary Ann Tally, Karen Wallace Meigs (joined after roll call), and Kate Woodbury (joined after roll call).

Members Absent: Lyric Thompson, Vice-Chair, Candance Gingles, Elsa Jimenez-Salgado, Alison Kiser, Del Mattioli, Mindy Oakley, and Dr. Tracey Ray.

NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement Staff Present: Danielle Carman, Charnessa Ridley, Deborah Torres, Lori Gerber, Philisa Fowler, Bernetta Thigpen, Sandra Ross, Deatrice Williams, Toshia Dunlap, Debra Underwood, and Mario Richardson.

Guests Present: DOA Secretary Pamela Cashwell, DOA Deputy Secretary David Elliott, DOA Legislative Liaison Katie Hall, DOA Program and Policy Coordinator Jordan Hanna, General Assembly Principal Fiscal Analyst Karen Hammonds-Blanks, General Assembly Fiscal Analyst Susie Camilleri, and UNC Law student Kate Starr.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Taylor at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome/Member Roll Call: Chair Taylor welcomed everyone who was present and thanked Vice-Chair Thompson for leading the last quarterly meeting in May. She added that she had developed a conflicting obligation at 11:15 and was hoping to wrap up the meeting by then. Taylor read the Ethics Statement and no conflicts of interest were noted. Carman conducted the roll call and members stated present as their names were called.

Approval of Minutes: Tally moved to approve the May 5, 2022 quarterly meeting minutes as written. Robinson seconded the motion, and all members who were present at roll call unanimously approved.

Oath of Office: The oath of office for reappointed Council member Mattioli was postponed.

CFWYI Executive Director Report

Carman directed the Commissioners to a memo from her in their meeting materials. She summarized the state domestic violence and sexual assault grants for last fiscal year and the current fiscal year, as well as the various funding streams through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). She added that CFWYI had

released a new online grants management system that week. The system is still under development, but grantees and subgrantees can now enter their budgets and submit budget change requests online. Additional functionality will be released in stages. Carman said the system should make grants management much easier and more effective for the staff and, more importantly, for the grantees and subgrantees that are providing crucial victim services.

Carman said the memo highlights some recent initiatives in the human trafficking and youth involvement teams and outlines some critical vacancies in the division. Carman added that she is pleased to announce that Sandra Ross has joined the staff as a Communications and Research Specialist, and that Angela Winston-Hill has been promoted into a state Grants Administrator position.

Carman briefly discussed plans for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. She also gave a legislative update from the General Assembly's last session, including: 1) the planned demolition of the Administration building to construct a new State Government Executive Headquarters facility; 2) the receipt of \$470,000 nonrecurring for CFWYI's human trafficking team; and 3) the fact that the final budget bill did not include funding for a Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) Coordinator position as requested by the Domestic Violence Commission.

Carman said all Council members had filed their 2022 Statements of Economic Interest, but one Council member is overdue for her biennial ethics education. She said the terms of 10 Council members had expired at the end of June 2022, including three members who have elected to rotate off the Council. Reappointments and new appointments are pending with the Governor. Carman added that Taylor would be addressing the need for a new Council member to serve as the Council Chair's designee on the Domestic Violence Commission in her report.

Chair Report and Discussion

Taylor shared some updates about Durham's Council for Women, including a Women's Equality Day rally in August. She added that DOA Secretary Cashwell had done an excellent online interview with Gloria Steinem that week. She invited other members to share updates from local women's commissions. Robinson said the New Hanover County Commission is making great progress, and she thanked the staff for including the toolkit for local women's commissions in the meeting materials. Robinson said the New Hanover Commission sponsored an annual equity banquet last week and is in the process of circulating a survey to get input from community members on the most important issues facing women locally. Spinner said she has offered to collaborate with the Greensboro Commission during her tenure on the Council and would love to enhance that relationship. Wallace-Meigs noted that there is a local Commission in Asheville, and Ross said there is also one in Cleveland County.

Taylor noted that Wallace-Meigs has been serving as the Council's designee to the Domestic Violence Commission, but needs to step down, and she asked if there were any volunteers to serve in that capacity. Outten volunteered, and Taylor thanked her for her willingness to serve.

Taylor said she believes it is time for the Council members to determine their next focus, noting that various ideas have been floating around. She said new members have brought new ideas and energy and the Council's greatest power is its members' passion, intellect, and commitment to change. Taylor said the Council has done great work with the Status of Women report series and needs to identify its next priorities, as well as an action plan for moving those priorities forward. Taylor suggested an in person facilitated retreat and strategic planning session for the Council's next meeting, which is currently scheduled for November 10, 2022. She said the agenda includes a list of potential ideas, such as a communications strategy and op-ed schedule for the Council, a report on the impact of limited reproductive healthcare access in the state, a centralized source of information about

women's rallies and events, and more engagement with and advocacy for local women's commissions including a potential conference to bring those Commissions together.

Woodbury said she supports an in-person retreat, noting that the synergy that forms when a group is physically present in a room together will be important to creating community and a focused sense of gravity. Wallace-Meigs agreed, noting that the Council has not met in person in a long time and has lost the benefit of the formal and informal conversations that occur when people share space. Spinner agreed and said a strategic planning process could be very beneficial and help individual members hone in on their roles. She suggested that using a professional facilitator would be helpful. Outten and Parker agreed in the chat. Robinson said a strategic planning session would be an opportunity to do some visioning about what Council members would want to do if resources were no barrier, and the Council could then group the ideas into more realistic goals and priorities. She agreed that a professional facilitator would be helpful. Wallace-Meigs noted in the chat that the Orange County Dispute Settlement Center has some skilled facilitators.

After discussion of some member conflicts with November 10, Carman said she would circulate a doodle poll to identify the best date for all Council members. Taylor said she would email a request for participation on a committee to assist the staff with planning and identifying potential facilitators.

Legislative Committee Report

Doherty said she believes the three most relevant legislative issues for the Council at this time are Medicaid expansion, access to reproductive health care, and recent developments in the *Leandro* case on public school funding. With respect to Medicaid, Doherty said the deal between the Governor and legislators fell through but the Senate Pro Tempore and Speaker of the House want to revisit the issue after the 2022 midterms. She said there appears to be more support for expansion in the Senate than in the House. With respect to reproductive health care, Doherty said the state's 20-week abortion ban is now back in place, and there have been reports of legislative interest in introducing more restrictions. Doherty added that the state Supreme Court was hearing arguments in the *Leandro* case that day. Outten said she works in governmental relations for a hospital system and would be happy to share more details about Medicaid expansion if any Council members want to speak more about it.

Outreach and Partnerships Committee Report

Taylor said Gingles was unable to attend the meeting, but the Committee has been approached by AARP about partnering on a women's summit in March 2023 for Women's History Month. Taylor added that the Committee also wants to focus on outreach to and engagement with local women's commissions.

Robinson said the one-page summary of the latest Status of Women report has been very useful for the New Hanover Commission to hand out at events and wondered if the one-page summaries of all of the reports should be shared more widely. Taylor agreed and said the Council could reach out to the chair or director of each local commission and share them over the next few months. She added that it might be helpful to invite a few representatives of local commissions to the Council's strategic planning retreat. Robinson added that Carman gave a presentation to the New Hanover Commission a few months ago, and that is another way to engage with them.

Recognize Departing Members

Taylor recognized Jiminez-Salgado, Oakley, and Payne and thanked them for their service on the Council. Secretary Cashwell thanked all of the Council members.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.