

St. Mary's County Commission for Women
Minutes May 16, 2011
Our History is our strength

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chair Norma Pipkin. Members present were: Krisanne Bentley, Pat Friend, Gretchen Hardman, Marta Kelsey, Denise Krumenacker, Juanita Nether, Norma Pipkin, Jamilliah Thomas, and Meredith Wilkins-Arnold. Also present were Kyle Bishop and Sharisse Swales. Stephanie Figerox, county liaison, was unable to attend due to illness.

The **April Minutes** were approved with corrections.

By-Laws: Norma has had no word on the revised by-laws and assumes that the Commissioners are still occupied with the budget.

Healthy Relationships: Norma and Cynthia met again with Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Clements from the public schools. We have recommended that the play "Don't You Luv Me?" be shown at the high schools. They needed to see the play before they could agree. Norma arranged for CSM to mail them a DVD of the play but has had no reaction from them as to whether they've received it, seen it, discussed it, or approved it. We have also suggested that Dave Thomas present training sessions for school counselors and parents. She and Cynthia are meeting with Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Clements on May 23. We need to have an answer from them right away if we are going to fund any of this effort since the fiscal year is coming to a close.

Budget: Juanita and Marta reported that the Commissioners had approved our request for a budget change and therefore we were free to spend the \$1900 remaining in our budget for FY 2010-2011. This needs to be done as soon as possible – see paragraph above. Meredith will check with a caterer she knows regarding breakfast and lunch for our annual retreat. Another expense is a new scrapbook and supplies for the scrapbook. We discussed the possibility of ordering "freebees" to handout at Health Fairs and the County Fair, perhaps key chains with lights or whistles with the county hotline imprinted on it, or stress balls. (Note: If the hotline is printed on anything we need to include Walden/Sierra's name since they operate the hotline.) We will also need more pens since our supply is very low. Denise has agreed to research items we could purchase. One other result of the budget change is that we are able to send \$1848 to the **scholarship** fund. It's been a long struggle, but we've finally achieved that goal!

Retreat: Our annual retreat is scheduled for July 23 at the Methodist Church in Solomons. Meredith has reserved the room. There is no cost for the use of the room.

Cindy Jones has agreed to come to one of our meetings in the future. She will schedule a time when she returns to work.

Krisanne, representative to the **Family Violence Coordinating Council**, reported that March has been a bad month for domestic violence in the county. There were reports of

205 cases of child abuse and 105 cases of sexual child abuse reported in March. A larger than usual number of cases of children being placed in foster care was also reported and child neglect reports are also rising. The case review team reported receiving 23 cases in March.

Dr. O'Brien reported that she is working on a letter to send to the public schools to support our Healthy Relationships Initiative.

Krisanne also reported that there are personnel changes in the states attorney's office which can potentially have an impact on domestic violence cases. There is a move to institute a policy that if someone comes in to drop charges in a domestic violence case they will have to attend a mandatory counseling session before those charges can be dropped.

Walden and the FVCC are also issuing a number of public service announcements to get the word out to the general public about where to go for help.

Gretchen has asked that we e-mail her with **nominations** for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. She also asked that if you really don't want to be an officer that you e-mail that to her as well. **Elections** will be at our annual meeting, July 23. Gretchen also asked that current officers e-mail her with a rough idea of time commitment. Norma noted that each individual will give to the Commission according to their individual passions.

Marta distributed a draft of a letter in support of the Montgomery County Commission for Women. According to Denise, who checked their web site, their funding has been drastically reduced but not totally cut. Their offices been changed and staff has been reduced. Marta will revise the letter so that it emphasizes the value of the MCCFW to the larger community and encourage a return to full funding as economic times improve.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta Kelsey, Secretary