

Virginia Council on Women

Capital One Downtown Office ~ 200 S. 10th Street, Suite 801 Richmond, VA 23219

Draft Minutes- August 21, 2013

9:30am-12:00pm

Attending:

Tracy Key
Theresa Preda
Dawn James
Jeff Caruso
Rita Surratt (via conference call)
Bakula Dave
Brooke Tribble
Ruth Zajur
Ann Harbour

Staff: Jenni Aulgur
Generra Peck
Jeff Palmore

The meeting was called to order at 10:10am by Chairwoman Tracy Key, who also welcomed the council members and staff present.

A motion was made by Theresa Preda and seconded by Dawn James to adopt the meeting agenda. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Ruth Zajur and seconded by Dawn James to waive the reading of the May 15, 2013 meeting minutes and to adopt the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Legislative and Staffing Update

Jenni Aulgur updated the council that the SOC is currently working on appointments and reappointments to the Council. Hopefully those will be finalized by next meeting date. No Legislative update at this time. It was briefly discussed what would happen to the Council during transition. Jeff Palmore reminded the Council that historically this group fell under HHR (per Code) but with the retirement of the Council's staff person; the SOC took over the group. The SOC will include information on the Council in its transition documents for the next administration. It was discussed that it makes sense for the Council to remain under SOC (Gov's Office).

Updated Roster

Jenni Aulgur sent around a contact list and ask all members to update their information or add it if they are a new member. Updates will be emailed after the meeting.

Working Women's Subcommittee

Tracy Key thanked Dawn James and the policy staff for their group effort and help on the Working Women's Subcommittee report. Dawn James thanks the Council for all their ideas and suggestions. She also thanked Jeff Palmore and Generra Peck for floating around all the ideas to the various Secretaries and for coordinating a working lunch for the McDonnell Administration women for their thoughts. Dawn reviewed the timeframe for how we got to this point with a working draft for review.

The draft report with recommendations was passed around to the Council. Policy has vetted them all – some were dropped due to being too costly or given a past decision by the Governor.

Dawn noted she was very excited about the number of recommendations and that it gives Council resources and direction for the future. It will help women and allow for further research across the Commonwealth.

Jeff/Generra noted that they will handle the technical changes and will hammer out any typos/grammatical edits as well at the end.

The Council went section by section through the report to discuss any clarifications/changes/edits/further explanation. Suggested edits or further research needed was noted by Jeff and Generra.

Tracy suggested editing the cover letter or the report to mention that the proposed recommendations were based on preliminary research and that more detailed cost/benefit analysis was needed before moving forward on any recommendations

Jeff Caruso suggested including a recommendation on Medicare and Medicaid, especially due to the expansion under the Affordable Care Act and other policies that impacted women. Jeff Palmore noted the Governor's position on the Medicaid expansion and suggested the recommendation not be included in the report due to the complexity of the issue.

Ann suggested making a recommendation to change the open enrollment for the state's healthcare plans to make it more flexible.

Tracy and Theresa suggested adding a section with recommendation policy changes for economically disadvantaged women with disabilities. **Action Item for Theresa to draft this section to be added to the report.**

Dawn noted the next steps were that some additional basic text would be added to the beginning; each category would have some further information added; and anything any member wanted added to the appendix to email that to Generra. Dawn noted we are operating under a short time frame and need any additional research or appendix item to policy by next week, in order to give them time to incorporate everything. Jenni noted she would send the revised report out to the members present and to the members absent giving them a timeframe to review and respond with any feedback.

LUNCH BREAK

STEM Essay Wrap-Up

Tracy mentioned she will do the thank you letters to the sponsors and that already we have 2 sponsors for next year: Oracle and Capital One.

Jenni circulated two thank you notes which were received from the 2013 scholarship winners.

It was discussed to have one council member “Chair” the STEM Essay Subcommittee to help keep everything on track and “is the link” on activities. Dawn concurred that would be a good idea – further discussion at next meeting.

It was discussed to do update the letter for sponsors (in hopes that they may increase donations); do a 1 pager on the judging process; and who would handle press follow-up after the Gov’s office issues a press release.

Jenni and Brook will work on putting together a “packet” for Council for the Essay Contest that can be used down the road.

May 7, 2014 is the date for the SMV Women’s Leadership Breakfast.

Tracy commented that the essay contest has to grow via the Council’s involvement especially with the transition in gubernatorial administrations this January. She would like to see the Council take the contest to the next level...but what would that look like. It was discussed for Council to think about what that next level might be.

The SMV had provided a draft Memorandum of Understanding surrounding our partnership for the breakfast/scholarship awards. Questions arose by Council on clarifying the financial disbursement and event details and regarding the 7% administrative fee. Tracy noted she would follow up with the SMV to get further clarification on this so we can review and discuss at the September 18 meeting.

New Business

- Next meeting is September 18th 10AM to 1PM at Capital One Downtown.

A motion was made by Ruth Zajur and seconded by Dawn James to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:02PM.