

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28, 2005

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, November 28, 2005 in Room 830, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Davalos called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Davalos
Vice President Lesser
Commissioner Freeman

Introduction of the audience followed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Davalos reported the following:

- She spoke on the "Celebrating Healthy Babies: Women's Infant Health Program"
- Commenting on a black infant health program, she reported that African-American babies are at risk for poor birth outcomes, including infant mortality and low birth weights.
- She asked Commissioners to participate in an ad hoc committee to review duties of the Commission ordinance.
- She provided an update on state legislation, including health care, safety and other matters affecting women.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported that the Commission would host the ACCW Quarterly meeting on February 10, 2005 at a location to be determined in the Hall of Administration. Staff also reminded commissioners that the 5k Scholarship Reception would take place January 10, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

(Commissioners Creary and Rodriguez joined the meeting at 10:24 a.m.)

SELECT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES TO RECEIVE DONATIONS

President Davalos reported that the First District recommends donating \$500 to the YWCA-WINGS program. Commissioners will provide recommendations for the Third and Fifth District domestic violence donations at the next meeting.

PRESENTATION ON ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Barbara Goul, County Counsel, provided an overview of how Robert Rules of Order applies to conduct at commission meetings. She began by emphasizing that the Brown Act requires that all commission meetings be open to the public. After explaining basic

principles of Roberts Rules of Order, she reviewed requirements for agendas, quorum, motions, debate, voting and minutes. In her presentation she pointed out the following:

- In voting the will of the majority prevails, but those in the minority must be allowed to express themselves.
- Commissioners who wish to comment on a motion need to first request the floor from the chair.
- After the discussion of the motion, the chair calls for the question, restates the motion, and then calls for the vote.

(Commissioner Creary was excused from the meeting.)

President Davalos thanked Ms. Goul for her informative presentation.

UPDATE ON NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FOR GRACE

Cynthia Toussaint provided an update on the activities of For Grace, an organization dedicated to helping women with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy and other types of chronic pain.

President Davalos thanked Ms. Toussaint for her inspiring presentation.

(Commissioner Becerra-Jones joined the meeting at 10:50 a.m.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Committee: Vice President reported that she, Commissioner Creary and Genevieve Clavreul attended the committee meeting this morning. They discussed issues concerning the King/Drew Medical Center and newspaper articles on nursing written by Dr. Clavreul. Vice President Lesser reported that the Office of Women's Health is planning a women's health summit for May, 2007.

Domestic Violence Committee: There was no report.

Legislative Committee: There was no report.

Education Committee: Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that at its November 17, 2005 meeting the committee discussed the program for the 5k reception on January 10, 2006. She also reported on scholarship applicants who hadn't received their funds and on a meeting with organizations who submit scholarship applications. Finally, she presented a CD produced by the Los Angeles Unified School District on being admitted into college.

Media/Public Relations Committee: Commissioner Freeman reported on her participation in the Education Committee meeting and requested staff to provide copies of past press releases of the 5k Reception and the Awards Luncheon.

Older Women's Issues Committee: President Davalos reported on behalf of Commissioner Mummey that the committee would meet on November 30, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 374L.

2006 Awards Luncheon Subcommittee: Vice President Lesser, Chair of the Subcommittee, reported on sponsorship, nominations and press releases for the Awards Luncheon, which will take place March 13, 2006 at the Biltmore Hotel.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Genevieve Clavreul spoke on the selection of Awardees for the 2005 Awards Reception.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported on an oral health committee meeting concerning the fluoridation of water in Inglewood.

Vice President Lesser reported that she attended a Teach for America meeting on November 17, 2005 concerning increasing the number of new teachers in schools. On November 19, 2005 she attended an "Ocean Therapy Session" in Manhattan Beach to teach surfing to mental and emotionally handicapped at-risk children.

Commissioner Freeman announced the Antelope Valley Women's Conference on April 7, 2005.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA: Commission staff will poll commissioners about their participation in the Holiday Gathering on December 14, 2005 at noon.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Karin Davalos, President
Charlotte Lesser, Vice President
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Ruth Creary, Ph.D
Peggy J. Freeman
Olivia Rodriguez

EXCUSED

Reiko Duba, Treasurer
Wadie Gravely
Ruth Jernigan
Janet Mummey, Esq.
Barbara Perkins
Michelle Pinedo
Elise ZeBrack

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Barbara Goul, County Counsel
Steve Erickson, Executive Office
Twila Kerr, Executive Office

GUESTS

Dr. Genevieve Clavreul
John Garrett
Cynthia Toussaint
Patricia Wilson