

# DURHAM COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION (DCWC)

MEETING SUMMARY

JULY 23, 2012

**Present:** Heidi Marks, Marissa Streyle, Jocelyn Harper, Carnetta Reid, Sandra Davis, Rosa Anderson, Jina Dhillon, Zion Tankard, Lisa Gabriel, Sharon Mullen,

**Absent:** Danielle Kowalczuk, Stephanie Watson, Shonda Santos, Tarica Rowlinson, Caroline Lattimore

## I. Call to Order

The meeting began at 6:08pm

## II. Treasurer's Report

No report this meeting.

## III. Old Business

Commissioner Dhillon led a discussion on preparation for the Issue Assembly on September 22. Commissioners identified several topics they believe are important for the Assembly and discussed other elements of preparation. The event will be held in the auditorium of the School of Education at NC Central University. The Commission will reach out to Chimi Boyd Keyes, Director of the Women's Center at NCCU, to invite her to participate in the Issue Assembly. A sub-committee of commissioners will lead the planning efforts and the work can continue over email. The DCWC will invite the County Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Marks led a discussion about the DCWC bylaws and mission statement referring to some of the challenges the Commission has faced in defining its purpose. The Commission has the opportunity to edit the bylaws and recommend the changes to the County Commission. The DCWC serves a liaison role between the county and the County Commission, it is not a service organization. Commissioner Marks provided the bylaws of the Commission for Women of Santa Barbara County and the Marin County Women's Commission Mission Statement as examples of how other commissions around the country are organized. Michelle Parker Evans suggested the DCWC could consider reducing its size from 15 members and narrowing its goals to three. Article 11 of the current bylaws is the most critical for discussion.

Commissioner Anderson suggested that a 15-member Commission would allow the Commission to do more work and the DCWC could be split into sub-committees. Commissioner Marks mentioned that one of the challenges of the membership structure now is the staggering membership (new members finish the terms of those who have resigned before starting their own three year term) and having quorum at meetings.

There was a brief discussion about the DCWC role, which seemed to settle on the Commission seeking to be the organization that women and service organizations go to so that we then go to the County Commission on their behalf.

The DCWC next meeting on August 27 will address the bylaws and come up with a draft to bring before the County Commission. Final planning for the Issue Assembly will also be addressed then.

**IV. New Business**

Commissioners Tankard and Gabriel, the two newest Commissioners introduced themselves to the group. Commissioner Tankard has a family & child development background and she is the chair of the organization Mothers of Multiples. Commissioner Gabriel is a financial planner and leader in the Chapel Hill Organization, Women Starting Over 50.

The meeting minutes from the June 25 meeting were passed with no changes.

**V. Announcements**

- August 4 is an American Cheese Society event
- Gluten Free Expo in Raleigh on August 12

**VI. Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm