

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
KALANA O MAUI, 9TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2012
MINUTES

I. Call to order and establishment of quorum

Chair Potopowitz called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

Present: Chair Barbara Potopowitz, Vice-Chair Maria Ornellas, Carol Reimann, Dennyse Grace, Debra Cabebe, Suzanne Hobbs

Excused: Susan "Netra" Halperin

Ex-Officio Excused: Leslie Wilkins

Staff: BillJohn Medeiros, Mayor's Executive Assistant
Mercedes D. Neri, Special Assistant to the Mayor
Richelle Thomson, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Michelle Esteban, Administrative Assistant

Presenter: Deborah Arendale, Maui County's Executive on Aging

Chair Potopowitz asked to amend the agenda to add to the agenda number five, Report from the State Commission on the Status of Women Representative Leslie Wilkins, the issue of receiving a \$3000.00 grant from the state. Commissioner Grace moved and Commissioner Cabebe seconded the motion to amend the agenda to add Leslie Wilkins to issue of receiving a grant of \$3000.00. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Welcome William John Medeiros, Executive to Mayor Alan M. Arakawa and Liaison to Committee on the Status of Women

Chair Potopowitz welcomed and thanked Mr. William John Medeiros.

III. No Public Testimony

IV. Approve Minutes from the May 22, 2012 Meeting

Commissioner Hobbs moved and Commissioner Grace seconded the motion to accept the May 22, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

V. Report from State Commission on the Status of Women Representative Leslie Wilkins

Chair Potopowitz shared with the Commission, she had a brief conversation with Ms. Wilkins about the disconnection with the State Commission. Ms.

Wilkins explained the State appointed a new executive director and then she left on maternity leave, and at this time she is back.

Chair Potopowitz asked Ms. Wilkins if she could not attend the meetings if she could send us an email to keep Commission updated at the State level, and she agreed.

Chair shared that Ms. Wilkins discussed with her about receiving a \$2,500-\$3,000 grant. She continued that the State Commission met and decided to fund a similar grant to the other county Commissions. Chair received an email from Ms. Wilkins this morning that said Ms. Wilkins would like to know by the end of today, on what the money would be spent on if the grant is awarded.

Deputy Corporation Counsel described the process of receiving the grant.

Chair Potopowitz asked the Commission for general ideas in what would the money be spent on:

1. Scholarship for women
2. Women's Conference sponsoring a young woman to attend
3. Women's History Month-Honoring Women and inviting their families
 - Inviting students to be mentored
4. Educate women about voting
5. Title IX-AAUW-purchasing books to be sent to the middle and high schools
6. Older women's week in September

Commissioner Grace confirmed the grant needs to be accepted by the end of the fiscal year, but does not have to be used right away.

VI. (skipped) Not on agenda

VII. Items for Review/ Discussion/ Action of Committee

1. Deborah Arendale, Maui County's Executive on Aging- Ms. Arendale gave a brief history on Office on Aging. She compared life during the time when President Lyndon B Johnson took office and today. She expressed the way that we have delivered service to services to seniors have not changed very much since the early 1970s.

Ms. Arendale shared that in the last ten years the Administration on Aging created changes in the system. She distributed a booklet, Maui County Office on Aging: Information Assistance Outreach Services. She explained the basic services in the booklet had not changed too much, but the Office on Aging has gone through changes in the last couple of years, for example, offering hospital discharge planning and air transition. She shared that the Office on Aging will form the Maui Partnership of

Coalition and Community Care Transition Coalition, and will be applying for Federal funding in September.

Ms. Arendale mentioned a program called Community Living Program. She explained meeting with the seniors one-on-one in their home. She shared being in the home gives the caretaker a lot of information about the client. She said since July 2011 there are several organizations that provide, personal care, homemaker, chores, and in home services to choose from.

Ms. Arendale explained in Maui County 53% of adults over the age of 60 are women and 47% are men, which is 30,000 people. She added in the next ten years there maybe 55,000 people over the age of 60, and in the next ten years after that it will double and majority will be women. She shared that women tend to have lower incomes, not only through life, but during retirement too and that pension and social security is much less.

Ms. Arendale shared the fact that most women are caregivers, and that 90% of the time caregivers will pass away before the client. It is a staggering fact. She continued to share a powerful tool for caregivers, which is about self-care.

Ms. Arendale shared some statistics about women and the elders, such as women tend to live longer than men, 8% of seniors are caregivers for their grandchildren full time, 25% of seniors live with grandchildren and children in the home and most times the caregivers are women. Vice-Chair Ornellas shared that the Alu Like program in Pakukalo, there is a low enrollment, because they're taking care of their grandchildren, and they're not able to participate what they like to do.

Ms. Arendale reiterated in the next ten years the population will double with the 50-59 year-old age group. This is existing people. She adds that the Office on Aging is doing all that they can to change the way they are offering services so that we are ready looking at three different revenue operating options:

1. Community Living Program
 - Working with the Veterans
 - Looking at Office on Aging across the country
2. Provide private concierge for seniors and concerned children who live in a different place.
3. State Medicaid Federal Financial Participation program
 - Looking at other states actual practices that we can recover 28% of that operating cost, and document clearly
 - Help to provide own care.

Chair Potopowitz asked the age to get services from Office of Aging. Ms. Arendale replied 60 year's old, for most programs. She continued that some of their programs such as the hospital discharge and the community living

program could be 80 and above by using an Aging and Disability Resource Center Model. She added that Federal funding is usually for 60 and above, but can be used for those under the age of 60 using discretion.

Ms. Arendale mentions helping grandparents with the grandkids by using legal aid.

Mr. Medeiros asked for a recommendation that can help women who have the arrangement of life interest in their property. Ms. Arendale recommended speaking with a lawyer. She added that the Office on Aging encourages keeping assets and not being dependable on Medicaid, so that they will be able to use the services from Office on Aging. Commissioner Grace confirmed that Medicaid is for medical expenditures. Ms. Arendale agreed and added that those with very low income, it is the safety net. She shared that the Office on Aging is prohibited by the Older American's Act to serve people who are on Medicaid. Commissioner Grace asked if it's only medical, and Ms. Arendale added that they provide homecare.

Chair Potopowitz asked how CSW can be of assistance to the Office on Aging for women. She shared September 23-29 Active Aging Week. Ms. Arendale responded that there are many ways CSW could cooperate with the Office on Aging at the Caregivers' Conference.

Commissioner Cabebe suggested Chair Potopowitz correspondence with Ms. Arendale and creates a list, and talk about it in the next meeting. Mrs. Neri shared about her talents. Chair asked her to write them down and send it via email. Commissioner Grace asked if we have other ideas send to Ms. Esteban. Deputy Thomson agreed.

2. Telephone Communication from Meaghan Tarquinio from the Montgomery County Commission on the Status of Women Regarding Contact Information for their Database- Chair Potopowitz called her back and gave her the information for a nationwide database, and in return she will share with us a copy of the database that is being developed.

3. Correspondence Received from AAUW (American Association of University Women) regarding Title IX 40th Birthday- Chair Potopowitz distributed a quiz for everyone to take and went over the answers. She mentioned and passed around a booklet that she would like to share with middle and high school students. She read interesting statistics for many firsts of women. She explained the booklet is on the web of AAUW.

Chair Potopowitz suggested purchasing the booklet and sending a letter to the designated Title IX coordinator/advisor/counselor to the middle and high schools of Maui County. Commissioner Reimann asked if we could print them out instead of purchasing the booklets. Commissioner Reimann

volunteered to ask a principal if they receive materials from AAUW. Commissioner Reimann asked if rather than print if it could be scanned, posted to the website and then sent to the middle and high schools through the CSW website. Deputy Thomson asked to check the copyrights to the booklet. Chair agreed.

4. Report of Status of Women's Issues Survey, Discuss announcements of Results and Committee's Priorities related to Survey Results- Ms. Esteban distributed the results of the survey. Chair Potopowitz asked to look it over and if there are comments and ideas about the results to make notes. Chair expressed that she liked having a speaker here to talk about what is happening in the County. She expressed after reading the comments she would like to invite the Affirmative Action officer for the county to speak at the July meeting, because there are a lot of comments, for example, equal pay and promotions. Vice Chair Ornellas asked for the colored copy emailed to them. Chair shared the interesting facts on the result page. Commissioner Grace found some errors in the results. The Commissioners shared their experiences while distributing the surveys. Ms. Esteban agreed to talk to MIS to help with the print out.

5. Report from Election Day 2012 Investigative Committee-

Commissioner Cabebe said they did some brainstorming and thought to promote voting registry this month, PSAs, letter to the editor from the Chair, maybe information on the County website, and in July publishing a guide to voting. She questioned if that was possible. Deputy Thomson reminded that CSW is an advisory group to the Mayor and his Administration. She said they could do it as informational. Commissioner Cabebe interjected and said that would be the purpose, value, and the process of voting, more educational. She shared that AKAKU also gives airtime in August, and information about the Charter Amendments in September. She shared she spoke to someone in Council Member G. Riki Hokama's office, and he is willing to attend and speak at a community forum if CSW decides to put one on. She also shared that her employer has offered MEOs classrooms and offices as a facility for public meetings and open to anyone and also invite Chair Joshua Stone of the Charter Commission. Commissioner Cabebe suggested having Chair Stone do a presentation in October closer to election time. Mr. Medeiros suggested contacting County Clerks because they would know the wording that would be on the ballot. Vice Chair Ornellas asked if they could use the grant money as an incentive prize for students who get the most voters' registration. Deputy Thomson clarified that they are not allowed to sign people up, but they can pass out the forms. Mr. Medeiros said only the county can certify voters. Commissioner Reimann shared an organization called Vote Maui. Chair suggested we collaborate with him also. The Commission discussed who to vote for from the county to the state levels when voting.

Commissioner Reimann moved and Vice Chair Ornellas seconded the motion to approve the Voters' Education Committee's recommendations. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cabebe and Commissioner Reimann volunteered to draft the PSA, and Chair Potopowitz volunteered to draft the letter to the editor.

5. Upcoming Fall Events regarding Women Issues – Chair Potopowitz asked it be moved until the next meeting.

VIII. Determine Next Meeting Date and Agenda

Chair Potopowitz said the meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 17:

1. Election of Officers for CSW
2. Mrs. Neri will speak on women's issues from the Philippines
3. Commissioner Grace suggested inviting AKAKU to record.
4. Mr. Medeiros will invite Affirmative Action Officer to explain what his department does and how they operate.
5. Voter's Education

Chair Potopowitz volunteered to write the letter to explain to the State Commission on the Committee on the Status of Women regarding ideas for the grant money.

Chair Potopowitz asked the time of when the grant will be accessible. Deputy Thomson explained the procedure.

Vice Chair moved and Commissioner Grace seconded the motion to send a letter to the State Commission on Committee on the Status of Women, proposing the possible projects for the grant of \$3,000:

- Women's History Month
- Active Aging Week
- Scholarships
- Title IX
- defraying costs for attending conferences and meetings

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioner Grace moved and Commissioner Hobbs seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 1:40 PM.