

**Georgia Commission on Women
General Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2021**

Present: Tita Stewart, Julianna McConnell, Karla Jacobs, Sharon Baker, Martha Long, Michelle Nelson, Johnessa Smith via zoom.

- Call to Order: Commission Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance quoted by commissioners.
- Review of Old Minutes: November 2, 2020 minutes reviewed. Commissioner Jacobs recommended approval without any changes. Commissioner Baker seconded and minutes unanimously approved.
- Report of the Treasurer: Commissioner Jacobs shared a summary of the current budget. She reported that to date, \$7509.97 has been spent from the current budget with \$42,490.03 remaining. She encouraged all commissioners to consider and submit projected expenses by April 2021 to insure funds are processed and utilized.
- Review of Pillars, Report from health committee chair Baker, presented a revised version of the previously planned First Annual Women's Health Summit that was cancelled because of COVID-19-19. She requested input and suggestions. A tentative date for the summit will be Saturday, June 12th with an alternate date of June 26th. All our pillar topics are all addressed and each speaker given 30 minutes because CEU's will be offered to nurses and this is easier to manage. Commissioner Nelson suggested adding topics related to COVID-19-19 and health disparities because these are now current issues and interest in these topics is high. The group agreed and topics and speakers will be considered.
- Report from Marketing Committee: Program Administrator, Smith demoed the website and demonstrated changes made and current look of our website. She asked for input about any other individuals to add to the spotlight category and information to develop the highlights on previous GCOW leaders section of the website.
- Report from Trafficking Committee: Commissioner Jacobs shared that a statewide meeting was just conducted. She chairs the group focused on community awareness and education which met this past Tuesday. They are putting together a calendar with projected projects for the coming year. She informed that group that GCW has mini grants available to assist with their projects. This task force has no state funding and needs income to complete their activities. She asked that any grant applications be submitted before April. She shared that flyers/posters mandated by law for posting in hotels and other businesses need to be printed because contact information has changed. That activity will need approximately \$1000.
- Commissioner Jacobs shared that Commissioner Blakey is part of Group 9 of the task force with is focused on helping adult victims. She also shared that Commissioner Nelson is part of Group 8 which focuses on younger girls (ages 14-17 primarily). Commissioner Nelson shared that they are working on the "Envision Project" which focuses on young women learning life skills. They are looking for partners to be resources and serve as volunteers. They are also looking for food donations and motivational speakers. She stated this group will meet on April 7th.

- Commissioner McConnell is part of the policy group which she reported has only had one meeting thus far which was mainly to introduce members and to look at potential legislation they will work to advocate.
- Commissioner McConnell mentioned that there are now three groups working on the issue of trafficking at the state level with one being the Cares Coalition initiated by Governor Kemp's wife, Marty.
- Report from Legislative committee: Commissioner McConnell reported visitation to the capitol is extremely limited because of COVID-19 restrictions. She is watching all legislative proceedings via zoom. She reported all time spent with legislators is timed by their assistants and of course, masks are required. Additionally, all legislators are being tested on Monday and Thursday mornings and their temperatures checked.
- Commissioner McConnell reminded the group this is the first year of the new session so all bills have to be reintroduced. She also shared that all committee chairs have not yet been named and there have been many changes in the senate leadership. She informed the group that Governor Kemp had given the state of the state address with his amended budget through June 2021 and proposed budget for 2022—which must be approved and includes a one-time \$1000 going to teachers.
- Commissioner McConnell also reported that there is now a zoom meeting to update nurses and NP's called "Update at Eight" every Thursday. Licensed counselors also requested such an updated type program and will meet at 7:30 each Thursday as well. Senator Butch Miller volunteered to work with these endeavors and spoke 20 minutes at the launch meeting where 100 attended the first meeting.
- New Business: Commissioner Jacobs stated she is working on the GCW Annual Report and requested that all commissioners send her information regarding their activities so she can complete a thorough review of our activities for 2020.
- Unfinished Business: Commissioner Bios still need to be submitted. Mrs. Smith again requested that commissioners submit a photo and bio sketch. Anyone needing to contact Johnessa Smith are to call her at 404-375-6404.
- Meeting adjourned by Commissioner Stewart.