

**Georgia Commission on Women  
Full Committee Meeting  
September 28, 2021**

**Minutes**

**Present: Tita Stewart, Julianna McConnell, Karla Jacobs, Sharon Baker, Melissa Tymchuck, Sally Barker, Mitchell Nelson, Tina Blakey, Johnessa Smith**

- Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6.57 p.m. by Chair Stewart
- Review of Old Minutes (sent via email) Motion to approve by Commissioner Nelson, Seconded by Tina Blakey and passed.
- Review of Pillars
  - Report from committee chairs
  - **Human Trafficking:** Commissioner Jacobs reported that there is much activity. The statewide taskforce is busy and also addressing elder abuse.
  - Work group 1: trainings continued. No date yet for family trafficking. Plans underway to do quarterly lunch and learn sessions on a variety of topics.
  - Group 8: Commissioner Nelson said no updates.
  - Group 9: Commissioner Blakey is working on issues related to housing for survivors. They are working on a list of resources for victims to find resources.
  - Commissioner Jacobs on two sub groups on the coalition task force. One community outreach NHTGA listed on social media to follow their activities.
  - GPTSICK is training for law enforcement officers. There is a new on-line training for all officers in Georgia. They are looking at what campus security needs to know since they are working with a uniquely different group of victims.
  - Commissioner McConnell stated her group is working on de criminalizing victims of human trafficking and sex workers.
  - Commissioner Jacobs reported there is hesitancy for individuals to come out for events because of Covid.

**Health Committee:** Commissioner Baker stated there was no report. Commissioner Nelson reported that CNN had done a story stating that deliveries were being suspended because many nurses in this speciality wouldn't get vaccinated. There is a major strain on hospitals to provide staff and practices are being restricted. This is especially problematic since Georgia is the highest state for maternal mortality.

There will be a November Planning Summit to hear from nurses regarding issues about this situation.

Commissioner Barker stated as GCW we need to be aware of the Governor's views regarding no mandates, but instead work on educating individuals of the rationale and efficacy of vaccines.

- Commissioner Tymchuck volunteered to write a blog on how covid affects pregnant women. She will work with the latest data with Dr. Manipoli and get a video to put on our website on this issue.

**Marketing:** Commissioner Tymchuck reported that tasks have been completed. No news. Johnessa showed the web site and updates. She shared that we need blog writers for November and December. She is also starting to work on our GCW annual report.

The next Georgia Wellness Summit is scheduled for June 11, 2022 and right now is planned to be virtual.

Commissioner Nelson announced that in light of covid data the UAPRN meeting has been changed to May 13-15, 2022. People are very hesitant to come to in person meetings, so the date was changed.

**Legislative:** Commissioner McConnell stated many subcommittee meetings are ongoing. There is a focus on violence against healthcare workers. November 3, the Governor announced a special session. New congressional maps are to be announced.

- Report of the Treasurer

- Budget Status: Current balance is \$44,882.
- New Commissioner Appointment made by the Governor: Honorable Valerie Montgomery Rice
- GCW Advisory Board
  - Expanding the Pillars Follow up
- UAPRN Healthcare Summit Update: date changed from October 2021 to May 2022
- Georgia Commission on Women Wellness Summit
- Website Updates
  - Digital Annual Report (In Progress)
- Blog Schedule (Nov/Dec Needed)
- Unfinished Business:
  - Commissioner Bios Request
  - Nomination Committee working on slate of officers
- Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m by Chair Stewart.