The September 19, 2019 meeting of the Solano Commission for Women and Girls (SCWG) was held in the Multipurpose Room (1600) on the first floor of Solano County Administration Center located at 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Solano Commission for Women and Girls was called to order at 6:03pm.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present (10)**

Olivia Ruiz Solano County, District 1

Ana Petero Solano County, District 2

Sabine Goerke-Shrode Solano County, District 3

Laura Petty Solano County, District 5

Rochelle Sherlock Solano County Office of Education

Mary Lou Batchelor City of Dixon

Cornelia Gibson City of Fairfield

Kay Kelley City of Rio Vista

Akon Walker SCWG Appointment

Sakina Ali SCWG Appointment

**Members Absent (6)**

Gayle Vaughan City of Benicia

Judi Ruggiero-Ferrara City of Vacaville

Jennifer Hamilton Solano County, District 4

Tiffani Thomas City of Suisun

Doriss Panduro SCWG Appointment

Elease Cheek City of Vallejo

**Resignations (1)**

Kaitlyn Dutton SCWG Appointment

**Staff, Speakers, Guests Present, Introductions and Announcements**

Sabine Goerke-Shrode - appointed by Supervisor Spering

Commissioner Kelley - Solano Family Justice Center are planning an event for National

Women’s Day and are looking for a member of the Council to sit

on their steering committee. Inform Commissioner Kelley if one

is interested.

Sophia Gomez - Vallejo

Stacey Martinez - Vallejo: Arts Solano that provides services to100 adults with

intellectual disabilities, is hosting a fundraiser--the Sprout Film Festival at Cal Maritime on Saturday, October 19, at 5pm. Tickets are $25. There will be a live and silent auction of 11 pieces of art featuring local artists. Sprout Films Executive

Director will introducing the films and engaging in Q&A. Flyers were handed out.

Commissioner Walker - December potluck is coming up. Chair Sherlock suggested that

Walker organize; she accepted and will organize potluck.

Vice Chair Petty - Petty family will be donating to SCWG

Commissioner Petero - Can SCWG promote the film festival via SCWG social media?

Sandra Sinz - County Director of Behavioral Health, Presenter

Jack Batchelor - Former Dixon Mayor, Field Representative for Congress

Representative Garamendi

Chair Sherlock - There is a community wildfire preparedness workshop on

October 6, from 10am-12pm, at Green Valley Middle School.

Commissioner Ali - Matt Garcia Foundation fundraiser—October 15, at Green Valley

Golf Course. Flyers were handed out.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC/BOARD MEMBER**

*This is your opportunity to address the Commission on a matter not listed on the Agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the SCWG. Please limit your comments to three minutes.*

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions to the agenda.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Commissioner Batchelor and seconded by Vice Chair Petty. Vote - Unanimous

Approval of the August 15, 2019 SCWG Meeting Minutes

Correction to the minutes: Commissioner Goerke-Shrode was not present at the August meeting.

Correction: Replace CC with Stacey.

Motion to approve August 15, minutes by Commissioner Kelley and seconded by Commissioner Ali. Vote – 15, Abstention – 1: Commissioner Goerke-Shrode

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. Mental Health and Suicide Awareness among Women and Girls.

Chair Sherlock referred to data from a previous status report on mental health and suicide among women and girls before introducing Sandra Sinz, Director of Behavioral Health, who shared information on mental health and suicide awareness and prevention among women and girls. Presentation was in the form of a discussion. Ms. Sinz confirms Chair Sherlock’s data as a nationwide trend.

Focus of the discussion was on National and local trends regarding suicide.

Question: Structure of Behavioral Health?

Answer: County Behavioral Health is part of the Mental Health Department, specifically providing assistance to those with severe mental illness as well as addiction counseling.

Target population: MediCal, uninsured. No private insurance.

There is a 24 crisis Unit at the Health and Social Service Campus located on the corner of Beck and Courage in Fairfield.

Question: Will anyone who presents themselves be taken in? For example, if law enforcement picks a person up and presents them at the Center, will they be taken in?

Answer: If one self-presents, they will be taken in.

Chair Sherlock asked that if it is national trend then why, and what can SCWG do to assist in terms of education and advocacy upon completion of SCWG report. Ms. Sinz noted that there is a comprehensive suicide plan, primarily addressing stigma. Methods of suicide prevention include early detection, recognizing a person who is at risk of suicide and what resources are available. Suicide education is a community effort.

Ms. Sinz shared her 31 history in suicide prevention work beginning as a college student on a local crisis line. She has been connected with Suicide Prevention in Yolo County since 1988. Sinz provided a handout on suicide deaths in Solano County from 2017-2018, and reviewed it with the Commission. The chart was provided by the American Association of Suicidology.

More die by suicide than by homicide. One-quarter of suicides are by women. Men, primarily white men are more likely to die by suicide than women. Girls attempt suicide four-times more than males.

Question: Is that data driven by means that are used in suicide attempts/deaths?

Answer: Female attempts include more cutting wrists or overdose. Consistently, half of all deaths are by firearm. There is a linkage between firearms and suicide.

Question: Solutions? Initiatives?

Answer: Working with law enforcement and gun shop owners to provide a suicide prevention notices at their locations. Education efforts are in the schools as well as providing hotline numbers. Apps are available to track wellness.

Question: How does the agency reach out to employers to bring awareness?

Answer: County behavioral health is conducting some outreach at schools, school districts in the form of health fares, tabling opportunities, staff meetings. There is a shortage of staff. There are mental health, first aid training, A discussion ensued regarding a suicide in the workplace and how the company dealt with the incident.

Vice Chair Petty summarized the presentation and invited Ms. Sinz to return. Commissioner Gibson, who is the Program Director at the Agape Center, related her experiences that are similar to Ms. Sinz’s experiences. Gibson can get a list of EAP (Employee Assistant Companies) outreach to spread the word to employers. Gibson was invited to speak in Richmond and provided training. Commissioner Ali, who works for an EAP company and shared her experiences.

2. SCWG Logo Contest

Commissioner Ruiz spoke on behalf of the Communications Committee. Nine entries were received and voted on at the Communications’ Committee.

Chair Sherlock voiced concerns: 1. Is this the logo the Commission will use? A discussion ensued regarding finalists. Some concerns included the limited depiction of women, branding, representation, differences of opinion within the Communications Committee, professional look, longevity of logo use,

Action: Motion to approve Communication Committee’s logo contest winner recommendations by Vice Chair Petty and seconded by Commissioner Goerke-Shrode. Vote - Unanimous

Commissioner Ruiz concluded that the winners will receive their awards at the October SCWG meeting.

3. Status Report Update

The status report committee provided an update on their progress and analysis on a portion of data collected. Some data from prior presentations are in need of updating. Criteria through which data will be analyzed will be provided in October. Committee is in the process of searching for a consultant.

Commissioner Batchelor shared data of how many women there are in the County and how many voted as well as women in Government positions, the conclusion being that there is a need for more young women to run for office.

Question: Can the available data be stratified by ethnicity?

Answer: Yes, on the website.

Chair Sherlock stated that more information can be provided in October and would like to have all the data collected by end of the year, so as to narrow them down and develop the narrative. The goal is to have the report ready and at print in March.

4. SCWG Financial Structure

Commissioner Kelley reported on the final decision of the Soroptimists of Rio Vista’s final decision to be SCWG’s pass-through account. The club voted unanimously, however, as they are not autonomous, the National office rejected the offer. Jennifer Barton will work with the county again, Other suggestions were brought up including Edie Thomas. Members will keep feelers out for possible pass-through accounts.

5.Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Vice Chair Petty: The executive committee discussed a calendar on future events, starting a rolling calendar and a contact person. Commissioner Petero to add “events” to the calendar, and a calendar needs to be added to the website.

Communications Committee

Commissioners Ruiz and Vaughan are sharing prize money for awards. Commissioner Ali has $100 for the plaques, and Chair Sherlock and Vice Chair Petty suggested that Supervisors Hannigan and Brown are invited to the logo awards ceremony.

Membership Committee

Commissioner Kelley: The Membership committee will reconvene to appoint a replacement for Commissioner Dutton. The committee will go back to additional applications and hopefully, have an appointment for the next meeting. The appointment would be an action item for the November meeting.

Status Report Committee

Refer to status report (#3)

Future Agenda Items

Logo Contest Awards

Elections – October

Question: Can commissioners with one-year terms be reappointed? As for two and three year terms, executive committee members may serve two, one-year terms in different positions..

Secretary Report

Report to the Board of Supervisors

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2019, from 6-8pm.

Multipurpose Room (Room 1600) on the first floor of Solano County Administration Center located at 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533