



City & County of San Francisco
Commission on the Status of Women

25 Van Ness, Room 130, San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 252-2570 FAX (415) 252-2575

Sonia Melara, Executive Director

MINUTES

**Regular Meeting May 26, 1999
City Hall Rm #408, San Francisco**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:12p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

President Chang
Commissioner Keehn
Commissioner Marks
Commissioner Miles

STAFF PRESENT

Sonia Melara Latika Malkani
Rosario Navarrette Esther Velonza
Ann Lehman Leatrice Miyashiro
Melyssa Jo Kelly

EXCUSED

Commissioner Murase
Commissioner Phelps

Vice President Delgado (Arrives @ 5:20p.m.)

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- ▶ Sonia clarified the procedures for "Closed Session"
- m/s/c (Miles/Keehn) to adopt the agenda with the following change: For the Sexual Harassment presentation on the San Francisco Unified School District-speaker running late, move Ann Lehman's Update on Living Wage under **OLD BUSINESS**.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- m/s/c (Miles/Delgado) to adopt the minutes of April 28, 1999 Special Community Meeting at Donaldina Cameron House with the following correction: Under the Dioxin item - Francesca Vietor of the Environment "Department" not "Commission".

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Chang:

- ▶ Reported that the Mayor announced at a breakfast for Women's Summit organizers that Women's Summit Chair next year will be our past Commission President Caryl Ito.
- ▶ Informed the Commission that:
 - 1.) The SF Women's Need Center and Lyon-Martin are having financial difficulties and expressed the need for COSW to become involved in matters related to Women's Health Services.
 - 2.) National Lawyers Guild have contacted certain community organizations asking them to sign on to a letter to District Attorney Terrance Hallinan or to be present at a meeting Fri. May 29, 1999 asking him not to ask for the death penalty for the cab driver who allegedly murdered a woman passenger.

- ▶ Announced Sonia Melara will be receiving an award from the University of California San Francisco Center for Gender Equity May 26, 1999 (tonight) and on May 25, 1999 (last night) the Commission received an award from W.O.M.A.N., Inc.

5. STAFF REPORT

Sonia Melara gave highlights of her staff report:

Budget Progress Report

COSW is scheduled to appear before the Board of Supervisor's Budget Committee at a hearing on June 17 at 1:00pm City Hall. Commissioners will be notified of the exact room and time.

- ▶ Commissioner Marks had mentioned to Sonia that a newspaper article stated that the Commission supported Supervisor Ammiano's Pregnancy/Parental Leave proposal. She clarified that the Commission testified at a Board of Supervisors Budget Committee hearing in support of the **concept**, not the **ordinance** since no ordinance exists at this time.
- ▶ Update on COSW's involvement with the Police Department's issue on the police officer who was reinstated after he pled guilty to stalking his girlfriend. COSW met with Chief Lau and are planning to meet with District Attorney Terrence Hallinan to look at the complete picture of what happens when a police officer is reprimanded in domestic violence cases, what could happen in the future and what type of policies are needed to prevent this from happening in the future. The California Commission on Peace Officers Standard and Training (POST), sets the policy for dealing with police officers who commit crimes. Therefore, the Department is required to follow those standards set at State and Federal level, which is beyond the department's control.

6. New Business

Presentation of Recognition to Commission by the Baha'i Faith Community

- Mr. Brady: SF Baha'i thanked COSW on their historic action in helping women achieve equality and abolishing prejudice of all kinds. In recognition of the 1st Anniversary of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women ordinance, presented the Commission with a letter of appreciation from the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i of San Francisco and a copy of a statement prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of the USA.
 - SF Baha'i community has a deep commitment to abolishing prejudice of all kinds. The faith emphasis is on equality of women and men. They continue to work to eliminate all forms of prejudice.
 - Concluded with Artistic Presentation by Quddus Sinclair.
- ### **Grantee Presentation: San Francisco Women Against Rape (SFWAR)**
- Presentation by Chris Lymbertos, Associate Director of Programs & Alma Alfie, Legal Advocate.

The organization started with three women providing services for victims of sexual assault and has grown to a staff of 13. Five major service areas are: Medical/Legal Services, Adult Prevention Education, Youth Services Advocacy, Crisis Line and Counseling. All services are multi-lingual – 11 different priority languages.

Annual services include:

2500-3000 Crisis Line calls, 850 new clients receive intervention services, 70 women receive counseling, ceiling program who come through the Crisis Line or other referrals. 400 women take self defense classes in Adult Prevention Education Program. Self Defense classes provided in the homeless shelters, at the needle exchange program, for women with developmental/physical disabilities (in many languages). They provide outreach through tabling at community events and distribute over 5000 reading materials in many languages.

President Chang pointed out that they are an instrumental part of the Commission's Adult Sexual Assault Task Force.

❑ **To Review with Possible Action: follow-up San Francisco Unified School District resolution on Sexual Harassment Policy #94-27A 10, Improving the Curriculum about Sexual Harassment**

(Ann Lehman introduced Jamie Lee Evans (from SFWAR) who made the presentation on our behalf in front of the Board of Education (Board). Ms. Evans teaches sexual harassment/sexual assault prevention education in the schools).

Ms. Evans reported that the resolution was passed unanimously and several of the Board members wanted their names signed on to it. The Board was pleased COSW was involved and commended the group - Student Leaders Against Sexual Harassment (SLASH).

Ann Lehman added as a follow-up, that there have been meetings attended by members collaborative project (headed by Equal Rights Advocates) beginning to implement this program. There are indications there may be funds available for implementation.

President Chang thanked Ms. Evans for representing the Commission.

m/s/c (Delgado/Kheen) To support the resolution and sending the drafted letter to Juanita Owens with an amendment to suggest monies be allocated for a coordinator to assist with implementation.

❑ **International Museum of Women**

Sonia Melara provided background information that this was the planning stages of establishing an International Museum in San Francisco for women. They have requested a letter of support so that they can submit it with any requests for funding.

President Chang excused herself from the vote on this issue since she is a member of the Board. Discussion was then lead by Commissioner Delgado.

Sonia Melara further clarified that their asking of “support” is just a letter of support, stating that we support their concept and wish them well. There is no money commitment of any kind or resources in writing the letter of support.

m/s/c (Marks/Keehn) to support the concept of the International Museum of Women. President Chang abstained from voting.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Dioxin Report

Commissioner Keehn reported she is continuing to follow this issue and the work being done on the State and Federal level and will keep the Commission informed.

Update on Living Wages

As directed by the Commission Ann Lehman, Policy Analyst attended a Living Wage Task Force meeting. She asked to have included in their economic study a gender and race analysis, and an analysis of the potential impact on non-profits, which they agreed to do.

Reported on the proposed living wage ordinance issued a few days after the last meeting by Supervisor Ammiano highlighting who is covered and who is not covered.

Commissioners were encouraged to review materials for further discussion and action.

8. REPORTS

Due to time constraints, the following reports were not presented:

No CEDAW Task Force report

No Task Force on the Sexual Assault of Girls and Young Women report.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comment

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

▶ Commissioner Marks inquired if the Commission was taking part in the upcoming NWPC conference. Ms. Melara reported the Commission would be taking part but she was still waiting for more information.

▶ Commissioner Miles reported that she has been talking to homeless women and they have indicated that they have applied to shelters and a large percentage say they will not stay in a shelter because they have been assaulted sexually. Wanted to ask the COSW to do a report on this if there is no existing report, as a matter of record.

▶ Sonia Melara introduced intern Jennifer Friedman from Smith College.

- ▶ Commissioner Keehn announced vacancies on Treasure Island Citizen's Advisory Committee and if anyone is interested, call Talene in the Mayor's Office. They are looking to form a Citizen Commission.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CLOSED SESSION

No Public Comment

12. CLOSED SESSION

6:20pm Entered into closed session

6:32pm Re-entered into Open Session

m/s/c (Delgado/Keehn) to disclose discussion which took place during closed session.

Purpose of closed session was to discuss Employee Evaluation of Executive Director Sonia Melara. The Commissioners have rated Ms. Melara's performance as Executive Director as excellent, having satisfactorily accomplished all goals as stated in her work plan and more.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm