

Indiana Commission for Women
Board of Commissioners
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, August 17, 2011
Indiana State Library
Betsy Corridan, Chair, presiding

Present: Sen. Jean Breaux, Virginia Calvin, Betsy Corridan, Cindy Felsten, Erin Houchin, Amy McQueen, Erin Smith

Also Present: Kristin Garvey, Executive Director; Anita Samuel, Governor's Liaison; K.D. Thurman, AmeriCorps VISTA, Falicia Brewer, guest

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:11 am by Chair Betsy Corridan. A quorum was not established; therefore, all voting was postponed until the next meeting.

Welcome and Introduction: Chair Corridan asked that board members and guests introduce themselves.

Executive Director's Report: Kristin Garvey reported that she attended the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW). She announced that she had been elected to the NACW board of directors and that they had hired a part-time executive director. She also stated that the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor had contacted her to see if ICW would like to do programming for them. They just published a guide for Homeless Women Veterans and also have other initiatives that could be possible activities. They indicated that the amount could be as much as \$4000. ICW programming would have to be in one of their strategic goals, which are homeless women veterans, pay equity, workplace flexibility and non-traditional jobs, including green jobs. Virginia Calvin commented that any of ICW's activities should be eligible for national recognition through NACW. Chair Corridan asked whether this funding could be used for *Working Women in Transition*, as it had been in the past. Garvey responded that the Women's Bureau would probably like to see something new. They were keen on getting the information out about the women veterans and that funds could be used to develop a program

Staff also participated in the *Advancing Women in Business* seminars that are sponsored by the Lt. Governor's office and Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Garvey provided the closing remarks at all three locations (Bedford, Elkhart, and Lafayette). She had carpooled with the deputy commissioner of the Indiana Minority and Women Business Enterprises and they discussed possible ways to collaborate. In addition, she was traveling to Clark County to meet with the American Red Cross chapter that has developed a training program for nursing assistants. She would be carpooling with staff from the Office of Women's Health so she hoped that possible collaboration would be discussed during the car ride.

Garvey announced that Cindy Felsten was nominated to be a state delegate to the Vision 2020 initiative sponsored by Drexel University. Vision 2020 was a national initiative to look at gender equality in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. This year's meeting will be in October in Chicago.

On September 13, there will be a conference called *Integrating Women Leaders*. The Lt. Governor will be the keynote speaker. ICW will have a complimentary booth during the conference.

K.D. Thurman will be with the office until June 2012. She worked on pulling the survey information together for the report on the listening sessions.

Garvey is working on getting the position held by Chelsea Stauch approved so that she can hire someone. It was bounced back to ICW because of an error and has been resubmitted for approval. She stressed that it is obvious that the office needs an assistant.

Stella Tran presented her findings from the research she did for the *Mothers in Transition*. The information she provided was only the results and not necessarily the analysis. The report was submitted to the board prior to the meeting and presentation slides were sent afterwards. She will continue to work on the analysis of the results when she transitions to IUPUI to finalize the report. She will be able to present that information at the November meeting.

Garvey then presented the results for the listening sessions. The information collected through the process was not qualitative or quantitative research. The sessions were meant to open up the discussion and listen. The report was submitted to the board prior to the meeting and presentation slides were sent afterwards. The process encouraged conversations around important issues that really got people talking. Comments from the listening sessions were generally positive and did not

focus on complaints. Instead they were focused on what we could be doing to make things better. Participants expressed their thanks for having the opportunity to talk and provide suggestions for solutions. Representatives from organizations expressed their desire to work with ICW.

Chair Corridan announced there would be a meeting on November 16, 2011. That meeting is typically a board retreat so the board could continue to discuss the results from the two projects and actions that the Commission could take in the future. It was agreed by consensus that the meeting would be one full day without an overnight stay. A suggestion was to hold it again at the Governor's mansion.

Garvey reported that the Commission received a request from the Select Committee on Government Reduction about what ICW is doing, what are the goals and what does ICW need to be more efficient. The Committee is looking to clean up inefficiencies. Comments from the board indicated that ICW had done a number of meaningful reports and that members needed to put those reports into action to show that ICW is helping women across the state.

There was a discussion about the continued lack of quorum at ICW board meetings. Questions were asked about how other boards encourage members to come to meetings as well as whether ICW should look at removing absent members from the board. It was clarified that as an agency ICW does not have the right to remove board members; however, it does have the right to recommend and request to the appointing agency that a member be removed. There was a comment that it would be helpful if ICW comes up with quantifiable goals that address specific societal outcomes, e.g. decrease teen pregnancy by 10%. Metrics are needed to show that ICW has addressed issues and made a quantifiable difference to the lives of women. It was indicated that the listening sessions have been the beginning of the process to get to that level. However, another comment was made that if the board does not have a quorum to approve what the staff will do, then members are telling staff they do not need the board to do the job. Continuing that comment, the board should not want to say that members want staff to go in a particular direction without the ability to approve that direction. Another comment was made that board members should survey themselves to see what each member's commitment is to moving Indiana women forward. "Everyone is watching us and as women, if we don't make quorum, what does that say about us?" The passion is there but no one can control everything in her life so are there ways to make it easier for members to participate, such as electronic voting or changing the requirement for quorum. Senator Breaux indicated that POWER, the women's caucus would like ICW to bring legislative issues to them and together, the groups could focus on getting them passed. It was suggested a small group look at getting some things changed. Betsy Corridan, Cindy Felsten, Kristin Garvey and Anita Samuel would look at the mechanics of the meetings and make suggestions through the Governor's Office request for suggested legislative changes as well as through the Select House Committee on Government Reduction questionnaire.

A question was asked about financial information. Garvey reported that last year's budget was \$118,999 with a 15% reversion so ICW had \$101,149 operating budget. Of that \$101,149, ICW did not use about \$4000. The reason was because all travel done by the AmeriCorps VISTAs was reimbursed by the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) so there was an end-of-the year reimbursement from OFBCI. Garvey also indicated that she had provided copies of the current year spending plan. The budget approved by the legislature was \$101,149, and there is a 3% reversion so ICW has an operating budget of \$98,115 for the year. A question was asked whether ICW could raise outside funds. There is a special fund with about \$20,000 less \$6000 to be paid to the Torchbearer caterer that was used as a base for the event. Senator Breaux indicated that ICW needs to demonstrate that it is a valuable asset to the State of Indiana. The budget is down to administration and nothing else so ICW must find ways to enhance the funding it receives. Falicia Brewer, a guest, is a grant writer with a specialty of working with public entities. She came to introduce herself in order to introduce the conversation of finding other grants. ICW is the only agency that focuses on women in general. It should seek ways to work with other agencies such as the Commission for Racial and Gender Equality in the Courts. A possible idea would be to create a training program that helps low income women take court positions that are currently open, such as bailiffs.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kristin Garvey as reviewed by Cindy Felsten, Secretary