



BALTIMORE COUNTY
Commission for Women

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 2024

6:00pm

Via Zoom

Attendees: Rosalyn Berkowitz, Kara D. Beverly, Latasha Blackmond, Amy Blank, Rosemarie Brady, Karen Coffey, Michelle Greer, Yvette Hicks, Sabrina Jones, Sharon Kehnemui, Jessica Klaitman, Cylia Lowe-Smith, Gabrielle Manning-Jones, Cherie Peay, Morgan Phillips, Brenda Savoy, Carmen Christiana (Liaison), Patricia Escobar (Health Department)

Absent: Elizabeth Best, Sheila Derman, Helene Waranch

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm.

Establishment of Quorum

A quorum of voting members of the Commission was established.

Adoption of the October 2024 Business Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the October 2024 Business Meeting were adopted by unanimous consent with one stated correction.

President's Report – Commissioner Sabrina Jones

- **Friends Account.** *MOTION: Commissioner Jones moved that Commissioner Cherie Peay become the new Chair of the Friends Account of the Baltimore County Commission for Women.*
11 YES/0 NO.
- **National Association of Women Commission (NACW).** Any Commissioner interested in serving as the Commission's representative to the NACW must email Commissioner Jones their resume. Commissioners Hicks, Greer, and Klaitman expressed interest.

Treasurer's Report – Carmen Christiana

- Beginning Balance - \$7,387.93
- Ending Balance - \$7,134.33
- The Commission was budgeted \$8,600 for this fiscal year, but the Baltimore County Council only approved a budget of \$7,500. Before the Commission makes any adjustments to the budget, Commissioner Jones will speak with Baltimore County Administrative Officer D'Andrea Walker about options to make up the shortfall.

Committee Reports

- **Community Engagement – Commissioners Gabrielle Manning-Jones & Morgan Phillips.** The Committee tabled a community resource fair in Dundalk, MD on October 21, 2024 where they made new connections and met with former Commissioners.
- **Domestic Violence – Commissioner Michelle Greer**
 - *A Day of Education, Empowerment, and Elevation for Women Survivors of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking* will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025.
 - The event is scheduled to take place at Stevenson University (Rockland Hall) from 10:00am-2:00pm. Commissioner Brady may be able to secure a different space at no cost. If necessary to secure the free space, the Committee will consider alternate dates in May 2024 for the event.



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- Solicitation letters for sponsorships, vendors, and awardee nominations are ready for distribution. The event flyer, which includes a QR code that will link to an informational website with a 'safe exit' button, is also complete.
- Five Survivors Phoenix Awards will be distributed at the event. Awardees will receive a custom brooch.
- [GLBAL media](#) will donate 4-6 videos of survivors sharing their stories. Please contact Commissioner Greer if you know a survivor who would like to participate. The videos will be recorded in December 2024.
- The Committee will prepare gift bags that will be delivered to the Family Crisis Center on December 22nd or December 23.
- **MentHERship – Commissioners Yvette Hicks and Cylia Lowe-Smith.** Working to schedule an interview with a candidate by the end of the month to start by January 2025. Will also seek out a first-year college student for the MentHERship program in Spring 2025.
- **Woman of the Year Awards – Commissioner Yvette Hicks.** This annual event will take place on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at the Sheraton North. All Commissioners are asked to attend. Will need to create a save-the-date for the event and ensure that event information is posted on the Commission website.
- **Public Policy Committee – Commissioners Kara D. Beverly and Amy Blank**
 - Commissioners Blank and Berkowitz are members of the Baltimore County Working Group on Resource Coordination to Support Victims of Sexual Exploitation, Violence, and Domestic Abuse (SEVDA). SEVDA is currently accepting policy recommendations.
 - *MOTION: Commissioner Amy Blank moved that the Baltimore County Commission for Women submit the following policy proposal to SEVDA: to request that Baltimore County provide funding to offer free self-defense classes for women and girls. Adopted by unanimous consent. Commissioner Blank will share the Commission's proposal with SEVDA at their next meeting on December 4, 2024. If accepted by SEVDA, the Commission – led by the Public Policy and Domestic Violence Committees – will promote and support the initiative.*
 - The proposal is in line with previous Public Policy Committee recommendations to support women and provide resources to combat incidents of sexual violence. This initiative could attract the support of a number of partners, including the Baltimore County Police Department and private organizations.
 - [MLAW Fall Conference](#) will take place on Saturday, November 23 in Columbia, MD. The BCCW is a Bronze Sponsor. Conference tickets are on sale until Friday, November 22nd.

Announcements

- November is Prematurity Awareness Month. The Maryland Department of Health has several resources and information available about the local statistics, risk factors, and how to reduce the chances of premature birth.
- The Commission will hold a holiday party (on December 12th or 19th) in lieu of a formal meeting in December 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

**Next meeting:
Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:00pm**