



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

Submitted to the Board of Supervisors on March 12, 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), founded in 1982, seeks to improve the quality of life for women of all ages in San Mateo County. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration, the Commission identifies women's needs, advises the Board of Supervisors, and educates the community on matters concerning women. The Commission also honors the achievements of women through the annual Women's Hall of Fame, now in its 29th year. Supervisor Carole Groom is the Board of Supervisors' Liaison to the Commission. The actions of the Commission contribute to Shared Vision 2025 of a Collaborative Community.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission consists of 17 adult and 2 youth members who are residents of San Mateo County. One position remained vacant during 2012 and 4 more vacancies developed by year end. Potential new commissioners were recently interviewed and the selection process is underway.

The current members include:

Christine Padilla, President
Carrie Gann, Vice President
Becky Abens
Katie Ferrick
Ruth Fullmer
Jan Kamman

Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i
Keesa Ocampo
Solmaz Rafiee-Tari
Carol Sanders
Sandra Schuster
Martina Tello

Mana Anvar,
Youth Commissioner
Robert Sukhovitsky,
Youth Commissioner

III. COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

In 2012, commissioners were involved in a number of activities that will be outlined briefly in this section.

Permanent Women's Hall of Fame Exhibit

Considerable planning went into the development of a permanent digital exhibit at the San Mateo County History Museum that will feature the Women's Hall of Fame and Young Women of Excellence Honorees. Patrons will be able to search biographical information and photos about honorees and eventually view their acceptance speeches, historical context and updates about their achievements.

Gender Analysis of Boards and Commissions

The Commission is in the process of completing year two of an analysis of the gender composition of County Boards and Commissions that will be conducted annually to assess whether involvement in County advisory bodies is reflective of the gender demographics of the County.

Women's Political Leadership Development

The Commission continued its efforts to encourage and train women to seek appointed and elected positions through its ongoing collaboration with the San Mateo County Chapter of California Women Lead. It co-sponsored an Appointments Training in Hillsborough and two Young Women's Leadership trainings at Sequoia High School.

Women's Clothing Drive

The Commission organized a successful clothing drive involving generous donations from nearly 100 County employees for women's work attire to benefit women in need who are entering or re-entering the workforce.

Women's Criminal Justice Issues

The Commission increased its awareness about human trafficking in San Mateo County by having members attend a Human Trafficking Summit, hearing a presenter from the Freedom House, (a local

shelter for trafficking victims), and learning about the Criminal Sexual Exploitation of Children from a County Probation Officer. The Commission is currently engaged in efforts to become involved with the local coordinated response to this growing issue. Newer members of the Commission took a tour of the Women's Correctional Center and Commission President, Christine Padilla was appointed to sit on the Jail Planning Task Force.

Legislative

A legislative work group that was re-established in 2011 developed its awareness of the County legislative process and analyzed bills related to women's health and human trafficking.

28th Annual Women's Hall of Fame

The 28th Annual Women's Hall of Fame was celebrated with 450 attendees. The event has recognized 273 extraordinary women since its inception and continues to be a time-honored San Mateo County tradition. Jeanine Asche, Lynn DeVere Bowdish, Maria Meza De La Vega, Jeri Fujimoto, Karen M. Larson and Sara Wooden Salsbury were inducted on March 22, 2012. The Young Women of Excellence honored were Seema Chaudhry and Karen Chee.

Women's Art Exhibit

During the month of March (Women's History Month), the Commission co-sponsored with the Arts Commission a Women's Art Exhibit in the Hall of Justice showcasing the work of local women artists and focusing on the theme, "The Female Gaze".

Facebook Page

A Facebook page, launched in 2011, has 120 followers and continues to be used for community outreach. The Facebook page is available at www.facebook.com/SanMateoCountyCSW.

IV. PLANS FOR 2013

The Commission established its 2012-2014 goals at its February 2012 annual retreat. A 2013 retreat is planned for May to involve the newly appointed commissioners. Key projects and events anticipated in the upcoming year include:

- celebration of the 29th Anniversary Women’s Hall of Fame on March 22nd;
- education and advocacy on the issue of Human Trafficking, conditions in the Women’s Correctional Center, and related women’s criminal justice issues;
- continuation of an annual gender analysis of County boards and commissions;
- increasing the Commission’s capacity to raise funds for the Women’s Hall of Fame Exhibit and other commission activities;
- evaluating legislation for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors; and
- conducting an annual clothing drive for women’s work attire;

IV. FISCAL IMPACT

All activities undertaken by the Commission are covered by profits from the Women’s Hall of Fame Awards Celebration. Staff support is provided by the San Mateo County Human Resources Department.

V. MORE INFORMATION

Additional information about the Commission on the Status of Women of San Mateo County is available from Commission Director, Honora R. Miller, MSW, at hmillersmcgov.org, by calling 650-363-4872 or on the Commission webpages at www.smcgov.org/csw.

Commission meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of most months and the third Tuesday in November, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at 455 County Center in Redwood City, conference room 101 (first floor). The 2013 meeting schedule is listed below:

January 22

February 26

April 23

May 28

June 25

September 24

October 22

November 19