



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 27, 2021, 6:30-8:30pm

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call & Introductions

- a. **Commissioners Present:** Becky Abens, Nirmala Bandrapalli, Sue Datta, Cheryl Fama, Ann Girard, Kelly Keele, Susan Kokores, Dana Linda, Karen Pyles Ellen Tafteen Maya Tussing, Anisha Weber Candra Williams
Staff: Tanya Beat, Juda Tolmasoff
- b. **Absent:** Anya Drabkin, Melissa Lukin, Marguerite Machen, Christine Padilla

3. Introduction of Commission on Disabilities Liaison – Colleen Shannon is absent

4. Public Comment

5. Approval and Adoption of Agenda (Action)

Motion to approve by Susan Kokores. Seconded by Nirmala Bandrapalli. All Approved.

6. Approval of June Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion to approve by Maya Tussing. Seconded by Ann Girard. Cheryl Fama abstains. Approved.

7. How to Advocate as a Commissioner – presentation by Tanya Beat

- a. What is Advocacy?
- b. Advocacy vs Lobbying
 - i. Clarifying “Cause” Advocacy
- c. Starting a “Cause” Advocacy Campaign
- d. Advocacy Options for Commissioners

A handout will be provided to commissioners as reference.

8. Sub-Committee Check-ins

- a. Answer the two questions: What is Working? What needs to shift as 2021 ends and we transition to 2022?
- b. Women’s Leadership group: Becky, Juda, Anisha. Reviewed Women’s Equality Day; Info for the RISE Conference; Collaborating with the other CSW committees. Note: also need to think about secession planning for Becky and her roles on the Human Trafficking Committee and the Domestic Violence Council (add to next CSW agenda).
- c. Mental Health group: Consistent with meeting once a month and really clear team and roles. Progressing well on work plan. One outstanding item is having resources on CSW website. Please add to next meeting agenda. They would like to organize a panel of women on the Lived Experiences group that is part of SMC’s BHRS.

- d. Economic Empowerment group: Reviewed three areas: Early Learning & Childcare; Financial Health & Wellness; Business Practices & Procurement.
- e. RISE 2022 group: Tanya and Kelly; Discussed online platform, concurrent sessions, types of sessions, “exhibit hall,” networking time, one portal to sign-in. Discussed potential high profile speakers from Stanford that could fall under Women’s Leadership or Economic Empowerment. Kelly will provide links to their talks for review.

Request from CSW to agenda discussion of CSW website & access to resources for September meeting. Check out: <https://www.smc-connect.org/>

9. Suicide Prevention Month Project – Proposal from Nirmala Bandrapalli

Nirmala, on behalf of the Mental Health Committee, is inviting the CSW to help make public comment at city council meetings regarding Suicide Prevention Month which is coming up in September. The committee will work on a template talking points and/or email to submit as public comment.

10. Women’s Equality Day Networking Social* – update by Tanya Beat, Juda Tolmasoff

- a. Please see details in the Director’s Report
- b. Update: Congresswoman Jackie Speier is unable to participate (neither in-person or virtual).
- c. *Note: since this meeting, this event has been revised from an in-person event to a virtual-only event.

11. Announcements (updates)

- a. **Domestic Violence Council – Tanya Beat**
 - i. Please refer to the Director’s Report for details
- b. **Human Trafficking meeting – Becky Abens**
 - i. Meetings are now back up on their YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SMCSheriff/videos>
- c. Summary of the Lived Experienced Education Group from earlier in July was excellent!
- d. Economic Empowerment Committee: August 10 Presentation to Supervisor Groom of their three areas of research, study and status in San Mateo County. Two volunteers on the committee who work with them.

12. Adjournment

The **Commission on the Status of Women Group agree** to arrive on time/start on time; take turns speaking; speak loud enough for everyone to hear; be courteous of other opinions; listen to hear a different perspective than your own; mute phones; allow the chair to guide the process; Chair will check in about remaining time at 8:15 PM.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular or special meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to members of the Commission. Those public records are available online and for public inspection at the Human Resources Department located at 455 County Center, 5th floor, Redwood City, CA 94063 by appointment. The public records may also be transmitted electronically by emailing tbeat@smcgov.org or calling 650-363-4467. **IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**, auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days’ notice. Please call 650-363-4467 (voice) or email tbeat@smcgov.org to make such a request.