



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Commission on the Status of Women

DATE: August 14, 2002

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kirsten Keith, 2001 President
Lisa Lopez Coffey, Director

SUBJECT: 2001 Annual Report

Recommendation

Accept the 2001 Annual Report from the Commission on the Status of Women.

Background

In early 2001, the Commission held a planning retreat to determine what projects Commissioners would work on for the rest of the year.

The mission of the Commission on the Status of Women is to provide leadership to develop policies, programs and legislation that address the needs of women, girls, and families. The Commission wants to stop the cycle and prevent future generations of women and girls who are abused, addicted, unhealthy, hungry, homeless, and incarcerated.

Discussion

During 2001, the committees established by the Commission on the Status of Women have accomplished the following activities:

Legislative Committee: In September 2001, the Legislative Committee held a legislative breakfast for Commission members and members of the public to discuss with elected official's issues of concern related to women. Attending the event were County Board of Supervisors Rich Gordon, Jerry Hill, and Rose Jacobs Gibson. Also attending were Congressman Tom Lantos and Congresswomen Anna Eshoo. State assemblymen Joe Simitian, Kevin Shelley and Lou Papan were also in attendance.

County Board of Supervisors have sponsored this event for the past 17 years. In 2001 the honorees for the 17th Annual Women's Hall of Fame were: Carol Tanzi, Marlene DeLancie, Leticia Toledo, Shelby L. Speas, Mary Jean Baker, Lisa Sobrato Sonsini, Josefina R. Enriquez, Sheila George and Young Women of Excellence Yuri Cartier and Allegra Hunt.

Health Committee: Members of the committee continued efforts to bring a mammography van, which was originally provided by St. Luke's Hospital, back into San Mateo County.

A delegation scheduled a meeting with Senator Speier to discuss the mammography van. Senator Speier agreed to help the Commission pursue bringing a mammography van back to San Mateo County to service the non-insured and low-income. She agreed to contact UCSC personally and discuss the van's return to San Mateo County. Speier requested statistics to show the number of mammographies performed when the van was in existence and after its termination. A statistical report was compiled by the County Health Agency and forwarded to Senator Speier.

The Committee also continued to work in partnership with the County Health Services Agency to follow-up on recommendations made in the "Report on the Health and ChildCare needs of Women in San Mateo County." Former CSW President Pat Obuchowski submitted this report on March 13, 2001.

Adolescent Committee: The second annual "Hear Me Roar" Young Women's Conference was held at Mills High School in Millbrae. The conference provided young women throughout the County with an opportunity to discuss concerns and to acquire information and knowledge of social, political, health and economic issues that will have an impact on women in the future.

The young women represented various social, cultural, and economic experiences. "Hear Me Roar" provided an environment of mutual understanding, respect and the opportunity to learn about the issues and concerns of young women from varied backgrounds. The day featured Cupcake Brown, magna-cum-laude graduate of University of San Francisco Law school who has overcome drug abuse, gang involvement and homelessness as the keynote motivational speaker with expert volunteers facilitating numerous workshops.

The Adolescent Committee, which planned and implemented this special day, obtained the support of local businesses to help provide the continental breakfast and lunch as well as other items to make the event a success.

Ad Hoc Committee: This committee was formed to explore potential activities that the Women's Commission could pursue for the upcoming year(s) that affect women and their families.

The following areas were explored:

- Housing (homelessness is a problem affecting mothers and children in our community). Co-sponsor a San Mateo County Housing Summit to discuss issues and possible solutions.
- Domestic Violence – Requested the Board of Supervisors support a resolution asking each city to establish a safe haven house modeled on Foster City's action.
- Public Service - Hold a conference to explore what encourages/discourages women from

seeking higher public offices in the same numbers that they serve in public service at the local levels.

- Women in Recovery – The issue of drug and alcohol recovery led to collaboration with county agencies on a report to the Board of Supervisors.

Other Commission Activities

The Commission also participated in the following activities for 2001:

- President Kirsten Keith, Vice-President Dildar Gill Pisani and Director Lisa Coffey met with each Board of Supervisor to discuss Commission's agenda for 2001 and to introduce the new executive committee.
- Participated in the Domestic Violence Council of San Mateo County and has representation on the planning committee and participated in the first annual "Walk the Walk" Domestic Violence Awareness event.
- Co-hosted in collaboration with the Adult and Aging Services and the Commission on Aging the fourth in a series of Older Women's Health Summits, titled, "Caregiving begins with you."
- Hosted a variety of speakers at the monthly Commission meetings including Carol LaMonte of HUD, Chief Susan Manheimer of the San Mateo City Police Department, Elaine Tipton and Linda Eufusia of the San Mateo County District Attorney's office and San Mateo County Board of Supervisor's President Mike Nevin.
- Attended and participated in Women in Action Lobby Day held in Sacramento.
- Sponsored a County Board resolution supporting SB 224 by Senator Jackie Speier. The bill increases the number of women who can be treated for breast and cervical cancer by ensuring that individuals in need can gain access to immediate, quality and comprehensive cancer treatment services.
- Attended and participated in the Association of California Commission on Women (ACCW) quarterly meetings and annual conference. ACCW is an organization made up of Commissions on women throughout California. Their primary goal is to strengthen Commissions across the state. Commissions have the responsibility to develop, advocate for, or support policy on behalf of women throughout the state.
- Hosted a meeting on November 27th with Supervisor Jerry Hill, Commissioners Dildar Gill Pisani and Kirsten Keith, CSW Director Lisa Lopez Coffey, Drug and Alcohol Services administrator Yvonne Frasier, Joe Caruso, Legislative Aide for Supervisor Rich Gordon and John Digiacinto, Director for the Private Defender Program to start a dialogue regarding rehabilitative services for women recovering from or suffering from substance-abuse.

The Commission was also represented by their Director at many events and on numerous committees throughout the year such as the San Mateo County Employees Health and Benefit Fair, San Mateo County Domestic Violence Council, San Francisco Mayor's Women's Summit, California Commission on the Status of Women (Sacramento),

Children's Management Report Team, Women of Color Organizing Project and the Youth Development Initiative.

In 2001 the Board of Supervisors also presented a resolution, at the request of the Commission, to reduce the size of the Commission to 15 adult members and 2 youth members.

Vision Alignment

The report keeps the goals of realizing the potential of our diverse population, ensuring basic health and safety for all and the commitment #8: Help vulnerable people - the aged, disabled, mentally ill, at-risk youth and others - achieve a better quality of life.

Fiscal Impact

All activities undertaken by the Commission are covered by profits from The Women's Hall of Fame Awards Banquet.

The Commission would like to thank the Board Members for your continued support and encouragement. The task is great and the Commission is hopeful that continued interaction with community based programs will allow the Commission to make a significant impact on the lives of women, girls and families in San Mateo County.