

**Frederick County Commission For Women**

401 Sagner Avenue  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(301) 600-1066

CFW@FrederickCountyMD.gov

www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/fccfw

www.Facebook.com/fccfw



**Public Meeting Minutes**

**February 9, 2021**

**6:15 p.m. – Virtual Meeting**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Maura Page**  
*President*

**Melissa Atherholt**  
*Vice President*

**Shauna Mulcahy**  
*Recorder*

**Valerie Dougherty**  
*Treasurer*

**Rosario Campos**  
*Member-at-Large*

Karen Czapanskiy  
Lakshmi Darbha  
Lois Jarman  
Carmen Kaarid  
Chelsea Kadish  
Lindsay Mickey  
Kaitlin Moore  
Cindy Shubin  
Desiree Tucker  
Marguerite Vacca-Kaye

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Commissioners Present: Shauna Mulcahy, Lakshmi Darbha, Cindy Shubin, Melissa Atherholt, Karen Czapanskiy, Valerie Dougherty, Lois Jarman, Chelsea Kadish, Maura Page, Rosario Campos, and Lindsay Mickey. Carmen Kaarid, Desiree Tucker and Marguerite Vacca-Kaye

Commissioners Absent: Kaitlin Moore

Guests: Lindsay Burdette, Maigan Pechnik, Isabel Malizia

President Maura Page called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m., a quorum was present.

**I. Executive Committee Report**

Approval of the January meeting minutes. Minutes were accepted.

**II. Presentation**

Melissa Atherholt presented on behalf of the Asian American Center of Frederick a new program entitled Empower U which will assist Frederick County constituents with the receipt of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in conjunction with intervention by Community Health Workers (CHWs) in the hopes of empowering clients to increase their familial protective factors. Within this program will be the special focus on Female Headed Households which Commissioner Lakshmi Darbha will be volunteering to promote. There will be an informational overview webinar for county agencies and organizations that could assist with the referral of clients on March 2nd from 2-3pm. Anyone interested can contact Melissa.

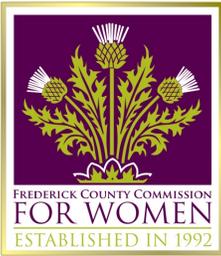
**III. Commission Business**

**a. Outreach:**

- i. Lakshmi and Rosario attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Potluck Event and discussed the Frederick County Commission for Women.
- ii. The Frederick County Commission had a wonderful presence at the Women’s Legislative Briefing on January 31, 2021.

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- iii. Continuing to promote events on our Facebook page which is getting a lot of activity.
- b. Legislative:

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- i. Karen shared information on the MLAW Agenda for 2021.
- ii. Our proposal about honoring the centenary of women's suffrage by supporting the franchise is making progress. You'll recall that our proposal included 4 specific items:
  1. expanding the number of days of early voting,
  2. increasing the number of hours that polling places are open,
  3. making it easier to vote by mail in all elections, and
  4. creating voting centers where voters could vote regardless of where the voter lives.

All four items will be included in legislation which will be introduced soon. A number of other proposals have already been introduced that would also improve election practices. Karen encouraged everyone to support all the work being done in this session to expand the franchise. She suggested following a pair of bills in the US Congress, HR1 and SB1, companion bills about improving and expanding the franchise. The principal sponsor of HR1 is Maryland's own member of Congress, John Sarbanes.

- iii. Isabel Malizia will be volunteering as a part of her Hood College HON 202 class with The Frederick County Commission for Women. She gave a presentation on information presented at the Prince George's County Women's Legislative Briefing held on February 7, 2021. The theme was empowering and educating women on issues that matter.
- c. SheLEADS – Maura shared that students are working on their videos. The first scheduled video is going to come out at the end of February. The topics of the videos are: night routines and mental health, mindfulness and time management, coping with stress, college admissions, Robbie's Hope Project. There was a good turnout for the Women's Legislative Briefing. The students liked the presentation on self-advocacy.
- d. Marketing - Desiree, Lakshmi, Lindsay had a meeting in January. Lindsay shared the committee's overall goal is the content that we want to share and need to develop the format for that content. This could be newsletters, videos, news articles, posts. Need to develop the content and framework for each release that we will make so people will get adapted to that format and expect the same format and release schedule. Lindsay is going to work on developing a

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YouTube channel and an Instagram page. We may need to have an intern who is interested in pursuing creative content.

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e. RAW Event – Shauna will send event eblast this week. Sponsorships are \$75.00. Awardees are: Dr. Brookmyer for Woman of the Year, Tarolyn Thrasher for Up and Coming Woman of the Year, and Asian American Center of Frederick for Organization of the Year. Dr. Andrea Chapdelaine will be our keynote speaker, we will coordinate with the SheLEADS students for a short presentation and certificate. Eventbrite is set up to accept ticket registrations and sponsorships.

f. Old Business:

i. Bylaw Discussion re: the number of members on the Commission. The Frederick County Commission for Women received a response from Joyce Grossnickle noting that if we wanted to make a change to have more than 15 members then there needs to be a change in Frederick County Code. The Commission is in agreement to keep 15 members and not move forward with the process to change the number of members. Valerie will finalize the bylaws document for review at the March meeting.

### IV. Announcements: .

- a. Chelsea has corresponded with the head of the County's legal department and hopes to coordinate for a presentation at an upcoming meeting.
- b. All Commissioners thank Karen Czapanskiy for her years of service to the Frederick County Commission for Women.

### V. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

**The next public meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 at 6:15 p.m.**

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