DC Commission for Women
Tuesday, May 7, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Location: Room G-9, Wilson Building
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

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| **Commissioners** | **Attending** |
| Gabrielle Alfonso | yes |
| Nia Hope Bess | yes |
| Donella Brockington, Vice Chair | no |
| Aryn Bussey | no |
| Brandy Butler | no |
| Courtney Christian | yes |
| Abby Fenton | yes |
| Jacquelyn Glover | yes |
| Tiffini Greene | yes |
| Angie Lundy | no |
| Camelia Mazard | yes |
| Princess McDuffie, Chair | yes |
| Susan Sarfati | yes |
| Shelley Tomkin | no |
| Abigail Truhart | yes |
| Jessica Tunon | yes |
| Latonya Clark | yes |
| Jenny Luray | no |
| Veronica Nelson | no |

**Meeting called to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

1. **Roll Call:** Completed at 6:37 p.m.
2. **MOWPI Staff:** Jennifer Porter, Angela Richardson, Alex Chambers
3. **Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from April 2, 2019 tabled until next meeting due to lack of quorum.
4. **Correspondence and Announcements:** None
5. **Report from Commission Chair:**

**Committee Updates (Committee Meeting Dates)**

Readout of May 1st Conference Call of Policy and Legislative Committee by Commissioner Greene
Conversation focused on the following:

*Community Service*

* Miriam’s Kitchen
* Excel Academy – partnering with the school on events and activities such as:
	+ Back-to-School “Welcome” event – Commissioners could cheer on students on the first day of school and pass out school supplies.
	+ Mentorship program with the students that would start Fall 2019 school year.
* Mayor Bowser’s Maternal Health Summit
	+ Is there some component to the summit where the Commission could take an active role?

*Committee Project / Initiative*

* Civic Engagement Workshop for women who are interested in running for office and/or in learning how to become more involved in meaningful civic engagement in DC.
* Health concerns – Black Women’s Health
	+ Making sure women of color are more informed about their health and make sure their health concerns are being heard.

Partner with a college campus or women’s group such as the Black Women’s Health Imperative (DC Based in Navy Yard) My Sister’s Keeper initiative centered around reproductive issues.

Readout of May 6th Health and Human Services Committee by Commissioner Truhart

Conversation focused on the Maternal Monday program and Summit, and on opportunities to engage with community groups to ensure that women are aware of District resources; gathering research re mortality rates among women of color post-partum; brainstorming potential summit speakers for clinical discussions about maternal health, compiling research resources to create a one-pager for use for community advocacy. A potential angle for discussion includes the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requirement for hospital systems to participate in community outreach and report out on it. Is there an angle to conduct research to see what some of our providers in the area are doing to meet this ACA requirement? The committee has set meetings monthly.

Readout of April 23rd Education, Labor and Training Committee by Commissioner Alfonso

The Committee wants to identify one project or initiative led by the commission to align with. There is interest in doing the Resume Riser writing again, Interview Preparation, Career Advancement, Dress for Success activities. Committee members are committing to undergoing work smart training. Interest was expressed in collaborating with Excel Academy and aligning its health and wellness curriculum with District resources. Ideas about how to address the lack of women in specific industries, i.e. the DC infrastructure academy, and coordinating with a career fair were discussed.

**Service Project Ideas**: The Commission discussed top priorities for action during our Summer break for action in September. Chair McDuffie made assignments to committee chairs and MOWPI staff to tease out specifics on initiatives in preparation for our Fall work.

* Consensus around engagement of some sort with Excel Academy (MOWPI staff); check in with school administration to see what their needs are and how we can best align?
* Miriam’s Kitchen: Should we sign up to do a group community service event? (Chair McDuffie)
* Black Women’s health event re reproductive health BWHI/ RJ event (Commissioner Christian)
* Make Resume Riser event larger; what high growth industries are growing in the district and how to channel women into those industries. IT, Fed Gov national sec. (MOWPI Staff; Commissioner Alfonso and Bess)

**Director’s Report:**

* 1. Acknowledgement of Mother’s Day: Happy Mother’s Day to all commissioner moms and staff moms.
	2. Pink Tax Tour Recap: Tour went to Ward 6. Looking for commissioners to come out to advocate and promote the tax repeal. May 23 is the next tour date. Tour will likely break from tour during the summer. MOWPI will be doing more community engagement during the summer to gain community insight to bring back to our work.
	3. SAVARAA Updates: Sexual Assault Victims Right Amendment Act. Introduced by the Council in January. Strengthens rights for victims; petition circulation, promote it on social media
	4. Work Smart Salary Negotiation Workshop; breaking from it for the summer to pick back up in the fall.
	5. Well Women Wednesday; partnering with FIT DC, a DC DPR dc fitness campaign on the third Wednesday of every month. Next event will be Mommy and me yoga at Butterfly Park. Please promote the event and come.
	6. Women’s Equality Day, August 26; MOWPI is looking for a new venue, something fun and accessible.
	7. September 10: 2nd annual Maternal Health Summit at convention center is now in the planning stages
	8. Empower women series remix of fresh start Wednesdays. Different topics every week.
	9. MOWPI Summer Calendar

**Committee Updates (Ideas and Engagement Opportunities)**:

May Service Opportunities: VoteRunLead, a national organization training women to run for office, will be holding an event May 18 from 12-6 pm at WeWork- 80 M St SE, Washington, DC 20003.

 **Announcements/Good of the Order**

1. **Next Meeting Date**: The next meeting will be on September 10, 2019 at the Wilson Building.
2. **Motion to Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7: 25 pm.