



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

WALTER J. SYMONS
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 2/8/00

January 28, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: ANNUAL, REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is the Annual Report of the Women's Commission for calendar year 1999. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chair to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

Sincerely,

Mardi Wormhoudt

MARDI WORMHOUDT, Chair
Board of Supervisors

MW:ted

cc: Women's Commission

01165A6

WOMEN'S COMMISSION



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

Email commissions@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
 Website: www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us

701 Ocean Street, Room 30, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
 ph# 831-454-2772 fax# 831-454-2433

January 28, 2000

Chair Jeff Almquist
 Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
 701 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Chair Almquist:

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Women's Commission, I am submitting the 1999 Yearend Report of Activities for your review.

I would also like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Board of Supervisors and the women of Santa Cruz County.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Smith
 Women's Commission Coordinator

1ST DISTRICT

A. Henri
 C. Pierce

2ND DISTRICT

A. Woodman
 P. Peterson

COMMISSIONERS

3RD DISTRICT

S. Brown
 A. Oliveto

4TH DISTRICT

N. Driscoll
 R. Flores

5TH DISTRICT

A. Harlow
 V. Dyas



0209

Santa Cruz County Women's Commission 1999 Yearend Report

I. Role of the Commission

The Women's Commission is an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors on issues concerning inequalities of rights and opportunities and the means to remedy those inequalities for all people, with a specific focus on women. The Commission acts as a vehicle for conveying the concerns of women in the community to the Board of Supervisors. The concerns are gathered through public meetings and through reviewing information regarding women on international, national, and local levels.

II. Meeting Dates, Time, and Location

The Women's Commission meets the second Thursday of every month from 6:30-8:30pm at the Government Center at 701 Ocean Street, Room 510 in Santa Cruz. In accordance with the Commission's by-laws to meet in additional districts, the Commission held its November meeting at the YWCA in Watsonville at 340 East Beach Street. In lieu of regular meetings, the Commission attended a **daylong** working meeting at the UCSC Women's Center on campus in July and participated in a guided tour of the Women's Blaine Street Facility in December.

III. Commission Structure

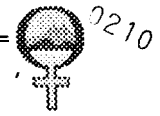
The Women's Commission is comprised of ten members representing five districts. The Board of Supervisor's appoints two Commissioners for each district. Commission meetings are facilitated by co-chairs that are elected every April. This year's co-chairs were Alison Harlow (5th District) and Allison Woodman (2nd District). The Commission members, as of December 31, 1999 are:

District	Commissioners
1 st District	Anita Henri, Camille Pierce
2 nd District	Patricia Peterson, Allison Woodman
3 rd District	Sandy Brown, Annie Oliveto
4 th District	Nancy Driscoll, vacant
5 th District	Vicky Dyas, Alison Harlow

The following Commissioners either completed their terms, resigned, or were replaced in the last year: Cori Houston, Mary Strunk, Gail Stevens, Luisa Caballero, Sheila DeLany, and Janice Bolin.

IV. Commission Staff

The Commission is supported by a twenty hour per week staff person – the Commission Coordinator. The Coordinator takes minutes, prepares correspondence, and represents the Commission in some of the Commission activities. From January to June 1999, the Coordinator was Rita Flores, who retired after eleven years of service. From July to December 1999, the Coordinator was Andrea Smith.



V. Attendance

Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7*	8	9	10	11	12*
Cori Houston	L	X	X	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anita Henri	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Allison Woodman	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	A
Pat Peterson	A	X	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	A	X	X
Mary Strunk	A	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheila DeLany	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gail Stevens	A	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luisa Caballero	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	A	-	-	-
Alison Harlow	X	X	X	X	A	X	X	A	X	X	X	X
Janice Bolin	X	X	X	A	A	A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nancy Driscoll	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	X	X	X	X
Sandy Brown	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A
Annie Oliveto	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	X	X	X	X	X
Camille Pierce	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X

X= present A= absent L=leave of absence dash (-) =not on commission

* Indicates Retreat or special informational meeting (Regular Commission business not conducted)

VI. Annual Goals and Accomplishments

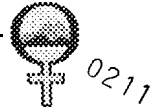
The goals of the Commission are set on the fiscal calendar at the annual retreat in July and are reflected in the vision statement:

The Santa Cruz County Women's Commission is active, visible and decisive, working to improve the lives of women and girls in the County by encouraging their self-empowerment and self-determination. The Commission embodies hope, spirit, and resolution working together for change. It represents and works for the Board of Supervisors and the community to bring about political and economic equity for all women in the county and strives to be sensitive to the needs of diverse groups of women. The Women's Commission a/so acts to recognize the efforts of community members on behalf of women.

The Women's Commission 1999 activities concentrated on issues affecting women in poverty, domestic violence, women's health, and gender equity.

IMPROVING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

In support of women working to transcend poverty, the Commission participated in the following activities:



- 3 The Commission coordinates and staffs a sub-committee on Welfare Reform, which serves as a collaborative effort among the various agencies, involved in service delivery to women working to get off public assistance. Members of the sub-committee include representatives from WeLisn, Community Action Board, Human Services Commission, Cabrillo College Fast Track to Work, Cabrillo College EOP, CALWORKS, Lifetime, the DA's Family Support Division, and interested members of the community (including welfare-to-work participants).

The sub-committee reviews pertinent legislation and monitors welfare reform implementation. This past year the sub-committee initiated several projects that lent toward improving the efficacy of the Welfare-to-Work system. They include:

- An evaluation process to allow program participants the opportunity to give confidential feedback on the services they were receiving
- A process for program self-certification so that participants can maintain anonymity
- A flowchart in participant's packets to ease navigation through the various services

In support of the work of the sub-committee, Commissioners attended conferences and visited new programs in the area. Representatives from the Commission attended a Statewide Welfare Reform Workshop, a Teach-in on affordable housing, and an orientation for the Women Ventures program. Women Ventures is an intensive training program that helps low-income women break into non-traditional fields such as the trades: construction, plumbing and electrical, and law enforcement.

Throughout the year the Commission and sub-committee welcomed guest speakers providing information on valuable services and current legislation. Guests included the Family Law Facilitator, representatives from the Livable Wage Coalition and the Human Resources Agency Childcare Division.

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In support of domestic violence prevention, the Commission participated in the following activities:

- 3 The Women's Commission holds a seat on the Domestic Violence Commission, which meets on a monthly basis. This Commission is made up of representatives from various agencies including but not limited to medical services, law enforcement, and advocacy services. The Commission works collaboratively to address domestic violence in our County.

Through participation of the Domestic Violence Commission, the Women's Commission honored local high school teacher, Frieda Krieger, for her work with young people in the prevention of domestic violence. Ms. Krieger, along with other honorees, was acknowledged at a barbecue held at the Sheriff's Posse House.



- 3 During the month of October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Commissioners displayed the Clothesline Project throughout the County. The Clothesline Project, inspired by the AIDS quilt, is a public display that bears witness to violence against women. A clothesline is hung with shirts decorated to represent women's experience with violence. The shirts are decorated by the survivor herself or by someone who cares about her and are color-coded by the type of violence experienced. A Commission article on domestic violence highlighting the Clothesline Project was published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

Also during October, the Women's Commission participated with the Commission for the Prevention of Violence against Women (CPVAW) in a memorial tree planting acknowledging local women killed by their partners. A ceremony was held and a tree was planted in San Lorenzo Park.

- 3 The Commission sent letters in support of domestic violence legislation AB825, which establishes a uniform method for courts to collect information to enter into the Domestic Violence Restraining Order system so important information is not missed and AB933, which provides protection for abused partners during arbitration.
- 3 Commissioners attended a Domestic Violence Meeting sponsored by Wellesley, and participated on the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Domestic Violence task force. The Commission also welcomed guest speakers from a teen empowerment program called "She Rocks!" and from KIDPOWER, a program for all ages that teaches skills to keep people emotionally and physically safe.

PROMOTING WOMEN'S WELL-BEING

In promoting health and well being for women in the community, the Commission participated in the following activities:

- The Commission sent a letter in support of legislation SB 480 to establish Universal Healthcare for Californians. The Commission also sent a letter to the Governor, urging him to sign AB 161, to establish and fund a statewide osteoporosis education and prevention program.
- 3 The Commission maintained participation with the Reproductive Rights Network and Commissioners attended the Women's Health 2000 Conference.
- 3 In response to concern expressed by several community members, the Commission sent a letter requesting that the Courts take into consideration dual diagnosis (for example depression and substance abuse) when sentencing offenders. The recommendation was to allow flexibility in choosing a recovery program that best fit the offender thereby increasing chances for their success.



0213

PROMOTING EQUALITY

In promoting equality and gender equity in our community, the Commission participated in the following activities:

- 3 In February, the Commission, with the local chapter of the NAACP, co-sponsored a cultural event celebrating twelve black women in history. The event took place in the County building and featured a photo display and poetry reading.
- 3 In March, the Commission sponsored a youth Essay Contest. Contestants were asked to describe a woman in history who has been an inspiration to them. The first place prize went to Jennifer Lopez from Branciforte Junior High for her essay on Sarah Emma Edmonds Seelye. Ms. Seelye ran away from an arranged marriage and posed as a man named Franklin Thompson, to enter the army as a field nurse. Disguised as a man she later performed successful classified assignments during the war.
- 3 In March, the Commission held an Award Ceremony at the Pacific Cultural Center acknowledging individuals, groups, and organizations that have worked to improve the status of women in our community. Nominations were solicited from the community and ten were selected to be honored at the event and featured in a photo display at the County building. The 1999 honorees include:
 - Walnut Avenue Women's Center
 - Soroptimists International of Santa Cruz County
 - Carolyn Swift
 - Martha Fernandez
 - Ailin Conant
 - Gillian Greensite
 - Kimberly Carter
 - Judy Darnell
 - Leila Salas
 - Claire Braz-Valentine
- 3 In April, the Commission sponsored "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" for County employees. Employees and their daughters spent the day in activities sponsored by the Commission and enjoyed a picnic in San Lorenzo Park.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The following activities were in support of the Commission's work in expanding community involvement and sensitivity to women's diverse needs in our community.

- 3 Commissioners attended a NAACP meeting featuring an ex-Aryan brother and a special meeting of the local chapter of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom. The Commission also welcomed a representative from Women as



Allies; a program designed to break down cultural and other barriers that hinder women from supporting each other.

- 3 In December, the Commission attended a guided tour of the Blaine Street Women's Facility.
- 3 The Commission supported the work of Teen Women's Day and the Glasgow Women's Library through donations and letters of support. The Commission also sent a letter supporting the Monterey Women's Commission's efforts to get funding for a paid staff person.
- 3 The Commission held a reunion of Commissioners from the last 10 years to bid farewell to the coordinator, Rita Flores and former commissioner, Sheila DeLany.

VII. **Future Goals**

- Explore new and emerging women's issues for the new millennium and update the mission statement
- Follow up on the Blaine Street Women's Facility tour
- Assess current services for homeless women in Santa Cruz
- Continue monitoring Welfare Reform Implementation
- Attend the National Conference of Women's Commissions in San Francisco this summer
- Launch web page

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Smith
Women's Commission Coordinator

Approved by the Women's Commission on 1/13/00