



County of Santa Cruz

0131

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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FOURTH DISTRICT

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FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 3/19/02

March 6, 2002


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 2001. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chairperson to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

Sincerely,


JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JKB:ted

cc: Women's Commission

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Women's Commission

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County of
Santa Cruz

701 Ocean Street, Room 30
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
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March 5, 2002

Chair Jan Beautz
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Chair Beautz:

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Women's Commission, I am submitting the 2001 Annual 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

cc: Susan Mauriello, CAO



Santa Cruz County Women's Commission 2001 Annual 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 lieu of regular meetings, the Commission attended a daylong working meeting at Commissioner Driscoll's home in Watsonville in July.

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 the co-chairs were Nancy Driscoll (4th District), Sandy Brown (3rd District), and Vicki Dyas (5th District). The Commission members, as of December 31, 2000 are:

District	Commissioners
1 st District	Camille Pierce, Evelyn Hall
2 nd District	Marybeth Varcado, vacant
3 rd District	Jennifer Braaar, April Exner
4 th District	Lupe Flores, vacant
5 th District	Vicki Dyas, Alison Harlow

The following Commissioners either completed their terms, resigned, or were replaced in the last year: Kimberly Nakata, Patricia Peterson, Emily Yeast, Annie Oliveto, Nancy Driscoll.

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. Andrea Smith served as the Commission Coordinator for the year 2001.

**V. Attendance**

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July*	Aug	Sept	Oct	NOV	Dec
Alison Harlow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Annie Oliveto	X	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	
April Exner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	X	
Camille Pierce	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	A	X	
Emily Yeast	X	X	A	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	
Evelyn Hall	-	-	X	X	A	X	X		A	X	X	
Jennifer Bragar	-	-	-	-	X	X	X		X	X	A	
Kimberly Nakata	X	X	A	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	
Lupe Flores	X	X	A	X	X	A	X		A	X	A	
Marybeth Varcado	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	
Nancy Driscoll	X	X	X	X	X	A	X		-	-	-	
Pat Peterson	A	X	A	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	
Vicki Dyas	X	X	A	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	

X= present A= excused absence dash (-) =not on commission

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

VI. Annual Goals and Accomplishments

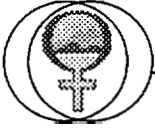
The goals and objectives of the Commission are outlined in our Strategic Action Plan 2001-6 and are reviewed on an annual basis. The Commission's activities are influenced by the Commission mandate, emerging needs as expressed by the community and identified by Commissioners Our Mission Statement is as follows:

The Santa Cruz County Women's Commission is a non-partisan advisory board that serves to advance the causes of all women. Toward that end, the Commission influences public policy by advising and working with the Board of Supervisors and the County on issues impacting women, educating and informing its constituencies, and providing opportunities that empower women and girls to make their maximum contribution to society.

Summary of Objectives

The Women's Commissions' objective is to be a credible, visible, community-based entity that advises the Board of Supervisors and serves women and girls in Santa Cruz County in the following ways:

- 1) Provide a safe and appropriate place for women to express community concerns
- 2) Provide an accessible and comprehensive clearinghouse for community resources and information
- 3) Initiate collaborations, bringing together needs and resources to inspire community action
- 4) Provide opportunities for leadership development and service
- 5) Take an active role in advancing Local, State, and Federal Legislation that positively affects women and their families.



Below are brief descriptions of the Commission's activities in support of the objectives identified above:

1. Provide a safe and appropriate place for women to express community concerns

Goal 1.1: Maintain a full active Commission

Activities

In support of keeping the public informed of the Commission's activities, increasing Commission visibility, and attracting potential Commissioners the Commission did the following:

- ▶ We published the Commission web page, which provides information about every aspect of the Commission's activities, including highlights of past accomplishments. We also revised our brochure and created business cards for individual Commissioners.
- ▶ We utilized interns through the County's Volunteer Initiative Program to support various Commission projects. One of our interns is leaving to do an internship in Washington DC and will hopefully continue the work she started with the Commission on CEDAW.
- ▶ We participated in the United Nations Parade in downtown Santa Cruz and the 4th of July Parade in Aptos.

Currently, we are developing a community participation policy and planning community listening meetings for the year 2002.

2.' Initiate collaborations, bringing together needs and resources to inspire community action

Goal 2.1 : Support Public Policy that promotes equity

Activities

- ▶ This last year the Commission's taskforce to work on local implementation of CEDAW (The Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women) grew to eight members comprised of Commissioners and community members. CEDAW is a United Nations treaty, which has been ratified by over 165 countries excluding the United States. It has been held up in the Senate Relations Committee for well over twenty years. In response to the stalling, women's groups, countrywide have started efforts to ratify and implement CEDAW on a local level – County by County. San Francisco recently passed a CEDAW County/City ordinance and is currently conducting a gender analysis of City and County departments.

Implementing CEDAW at the local level requires a proactive examination of laws already on the books -- an effort involving the cooperation of local government, community groups, and citizens. Governmental departments participate with citizen groups in a gender analysis of employment practices, budget allocations and service delivery. In San Francisco, the gender analysis process has created sensitivity (previously nonexistent) to gender-related issues. Inequities are identified and addressed through policy revisions, education and sometimes the reallocation of funds.



Much of the Taskforce's work this last year has involved gathering information from other Counties involved on local implementation and educating and gather support from local organizations. The Taskforce has gained the support from numerous individuals and organizations including: the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the Santa Cruz Chapter of NAACP, the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee, the League of Women Voters, the Green Party, and the Valley Women's Club.

- ▶ The Commission coordinated the 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 EOPS, CalWORKs, California Department of Child Support Services, and interested members of the community (including CalWORK's 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 Reform implementation. Some of them included:

- Strengthened domestic abuse protocol, which increases the opportunity for participants to identify. Additions to staff training on protocol and awareness training provided by community domestic violence service agencies.
- Smoother coordination with UCSC students and CalWORKs services including an informal complaint procedure process and support for transferring Cabrillo students.
- New Subcommittee Operating Guidelines to support a more responsive and inclusive working group.

Throughout the year the sub-committee welcomed guests provided information from both the view of the participants and that of service providers. One such guest included Marcie Wald, Cabrillo College Academic Counselor who presented a Counselor's Position Statement prepared by Counselors from three local Community Colleges. Members of the subcommittee also participated in a discussion with State legislators regarding the Counselor's Position Statement protesting academic time limits for CalWORK's participants.

3. Provide an accessible and comprehensive clearinghouse for community resources and information.

Goal 3.1: Develop a comprehensive Women's Resource Directory available County-wide

Activities

- ▶ This last year the Commission provided referrals to community members (callers and walk-ins) using the HelpSCC.org web site. We maintain a small library in the Commission office and we currently are collecting Resource Directories from various local women's organizations with the intent of compiling a comprehensive list of women's organizations.

4) Provide opportunities for leadership development and service



Goal 4.1: Honor extraordinary women in a unique and powerful way

Activities

- ▶ This last year the Commission chose to suspend the Annual Women's Commission Award Ceremony. The Commission is continually reviewing other methods of honoring women in our community.
- ▶ In honor of Women's Equality Day in August, the Commission sponsored a month-long display on the County community wall featuring a 100-year timeline highlighting women's struggle for equality.

Goal 4.2: Expand leadership opportunities to all women

Activities

- ▶ The Commission created a Women in Leadership Taskforce comprised of diverse representatives from some of the following organizations: UCSC Women's Center, Women As Allies, Girl Scouts, Cabrillo's Re-entry Center. The Taskforce is developing a method to examine women leadership in Santa Cruz County. Through focus groups and listening sessions we intend to gather information on how women are using their gifts and talents in the community and identify obstacles to their participation in decision-making roles.

The Taskforce meets throughout the County each month. This coming year we will be exploring Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) as an approach to addressing possible barriers to women's leadership. Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is an approach that engages in capacity building and focus on community assets rather than just exclusively on needs.

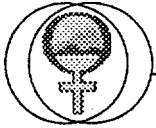
5) Take an active role in advancing Local, State, and Federal Legislation that positively affects women and their families.

Goal 5.1: Alert State and Local Legislators on upcoming Local, State, and Federal Legislation pertaining to women and family issues

Activities

- ▶ The Commission maintained active participation with the Reproductive Rights Network and supported the following legislation:
 - **AB 36 and SB11.** Both AB 36 and SB 11 would have prohibited the practice of "confidential" agreements not filed by the court that prohibit disclosure to the public or public safety agencies of specified information discovered in litigating any action based on bodily injury or wrongful death allegedly caused by a defective product or environmental hazard.
 - **AB 130,** which would expand the Family PACT program to provide preventive health care to women who are uninsured with income below 200% of federal poverty level up to age 65.

The Commission was also represented at Annual Lobby Day for reproductive rights in Sacramento and Planned Parenthood's 30th Anniversary Celebration.



- ▶ 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.
- ▶ The Commission supported the work of She Rocks Teen Women's Day through donations and letters of support.
- ▶ This last year, Commissioners represented Santa Cruz County at the National Convention of the National Association of Commissions for Women in Washington DC and the Annual Conference for the Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW) in Sonoma, California. One of our Commissioners also holds a seat on the Board of the ACCW.

Guest speakers welcomed by the Women's Commission in 2001:

Sandy Brown, Community Action Board
Sheila Delany, community member
Supervisor Jan Beautz, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
Lorene Garrett-Browder, Women As Allies
Roberta Valdez, UCSC Women's Center
Ann Lehman, San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women
Val Nelson, community member
Sarah Friedlander, community member
Caroline Reich, ETR and She Rocks!
Hina Pindle, community member
Ginger and Everett Downs, community members
Sargent Robert MacAulay, Santa Cruz County Sheriffs Department

VII. Future Goals and Recommendations

- Fulfill our objectives and goals as outlined in the Women's Commission Strategic Action Plan for 2001-2006 (Executive Summary attached)
- Continue monitoring Welfare Reform Implementation
- Attend the National Conference of Women's Commissions in North Carolina

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Smith
Women's Commission Coordinator

Approved by the Women's Commission on 2/14/02