

Morris County Advisory Committee on Women

September 17, 2019

Morris View Meeting Room

Present: Pam Bennett-Santoro, Lila Bernstein, Joann Bjornson, Kathy DeFillippo, Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Elaine Muller, Gayle Pearson, Sharon Yoo

Absent: Carole Harper, Shelby Rhodes

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair Gayle Pearson.

## MEETING SUMMARY

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### July 16, 2019 Meeting Summary

Pearson presented the July 16 meeting summary for approval. No changes were recommended, and the committee adopted minutes without discussion at 5:31pm. Pearson then reviewed action item updates. She reported that Dr. Firkser does not live within Morris County and therefore is ineligible for membership to the committee, but that she would like to invite Dr. Firkser to a meeting to present. Yoo reported that the recruitment letter might not be adopted by all the Freeholders and therefore, it would be better to direct potential members to the biographical form on the webpage. Yoo also reported that she asked department heads about gaps in services for women and that none were identified, although it was stressed that housing is an issue for all populations. Bjornson agreed that based on her experience, housing is a gap for women as are healthcare and childcare. DeFillippo noted that the county is doubling its number of slots at Head Start. Pearson asked Yoo if there were any plans to change the model for children whose parents are incarcerated to move away from foster care and more towards a temporary housing facility. Yoo stated that the county does not have a current space that could make this work but there is a liaison to the foster care system sitting on the Youth Services Advisory Committee if we would like to inquire further into this topic. Delcalzo-Berens reported that a mission statement was drafted for review during a later agenda item.

### Human Services Report

Yoo reported that there will be a meeting to discuss Code Blue at the Office of Emergency Management on September 24 at 9am. DeFillippo reported that the Freeholders are reviewing the Women's Committee and that recently there have been some ideas that did not get off the ground. The committee members recalled some recent successes including the committee's influence in improving jail services. Yoo will invite staff from the STAR program to the next meeting to update the committee about these initiatives. Yoo announced that Legal Services and Employment and Training are sponsoring a training targeted towards providers and advocates. The flyer will be emailed with the meeting summary. Yoo also reported that there are a few staff changes. Laurie Becker is retiring at the end of this month and Beth Jacobsen is retiring at the end of October. Amy Archer is taking over Laurie Becker's position and Beth Jacobsen's position has not yet been filled.

### Seeds of Change Award

The committee discussed the six applicants for the Seeds of Change Award: Lia Brodrick, Phyllis Chanda, Victoria Fife, Stephanie Ruzicka, Linda Tarr, Charlie Uhrmann. After much deliberation, the committee selected Phyllis Chanda as the award recipient.

The committee then discussed the details of the event. The committee is impressed with all the nominations and would like to meet the women who were not selected for the award and to encourage them in their work. Therefore, the committee will invite all nominators and nominees to a reception at the Freeholder meeting and ask if the nominees would agree to have their names in the press release. Bennett-Santoro volunteered to assist with the program for the event. Delcalzo-Berens will draft letters to the winner and to the remaining nominees and will order the award. Yoo

reported that the original date for the award ceremony is changing and the new tentative date is November 13. DeFillippo will look into getting some refreshments for the reception.

### **Mission Statement**

The committee members reviewed the draft mission statement and the committee purpose as recorded in the bylaws. The committee agreed to the following mission statement: To explore key issues facing women in Morris County and to make recommendations to the Board of Chosen Freeholders to advocate for responsible solutions and awareness. The mission statement will be reviewed by the Freeholders.

### **Committee Membership**

Bernstein asked if members can actively recruit and if we have access to recruitment materials. DeFillippo said that we can and that potential candidates can be directed to the biographical form. Delcalzo-Berens stated that there is a fact sheet on the webpage that can be provided to potential candidates but suggested that we attempt to develop additional marketing materials.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The committee discussed meeting dates for the remainder of the year. The October meeting is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday in October. The committee determined to change the meeting date to October 15, to reflect the usual meeting schedule of the third Tuesday instead. The November 19 and December 17 meeting dates are unchanged.

### **Announcements**

Bernstein asked if the committee could appoint a representative to Assemblywoman Huttle's Committee for Women and Children. Muller explained that historically, members can attend meetings in the community and bring the information back to the Women's Committee but that we do not have sufficient resources to ask members to sit on the various committees, councils and groups dedicated to women's issues.

Bennett-Santoro announced that the Morristown Festival of Books is scheduled for October 11 and 12. She also announced that Garden State Impact 1000 is looking for new members.

### **Meeting End**

Muller made a motion to end the meeting. Bernstein seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
All members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volunteer to attend freeholder meetings</li><li>• Review materials prior to meetings</li></ul>
Gayle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invite Dr. Lisa Firkser to November meeting</li></ul>
Allison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Order Seeds of Change awards</li><li>• Send revised October meeting date to Liz</li><li>• Draft letters to the SOC nominees and nominators</li></ul>
Sharon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invite STAR program staff to October meeting</li><li>• Finalize the date for the Seeds of Change Award Freeholder meeting</li></ul>
Pam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare the program for the Seeds of Change ceremony</li></ul>
Kathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bring mission statement to the Freeholders for review</li><li>• Look into getting refreshments for a reception at the Freeholder meeting</li></ul>