

Wyoming Council on Women's Issues

Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2004

Call to Order

Michelle Aldrich, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Michelle invited Sandy Root-Elledge to begin her presentation regarding the Pathways Plus database and the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND). Sandy provided the Council with handouts ("Women First – Breast Health for Women with Developmental Disabilities, Connect Wyoming brochure, and a Pathways Plus CD). After Sandy's presentation, the Council discussed ideas of how to get the word out regarding Connect Wyoming.

Council members noted that although the Resource Directory recently produced by the Council achieved a similar purpose as the Pathways Plus database, no one seemed to know about the database. The Council agreed that all information gathered by the Council to produce the Resource Directory should be merged with the Pathways Plus database and that support of the Pathways Plus database should be an effort of the Council's rather than continuing to produce a separate Resource Directory. There were concerns expressed by Council members that use of the Pathways Plus database is heavily reliant on internet access and there was some discussion regarding provision of printed material in order to make it accessible to people who do not have internet access. Issues such as how the data is kept up to date and the work-load to keep it current were discussed. Council members agreed that partnering with WIND to produce a brochure that could remain current with a phone number would be beneficial. The Council thanked Sandy for her time.

Roll Call

Michelle Aldrich, Jan Torres, DaNece Day, Merna Rierson, Sherrill Helzer, Cynthia Chavez Kelly, Teresa de Groh, Nina Romero-Caron, Mary England, Jenny Ingram, and Diane Moser were present. Three council seats are vacant; no members were absent.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of July 29, 2004, prepared by Teresa de Groh, Secretary, were discussed.

DaNece moved to approve the July 29, 2004 minutes as written and Nina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Diane briefly discussed the financial report prepared for the meeting. Nina asked if the expenses for the bookmarks were reflected in the presented financial data. Diane indicated those bills are not reflected (the bills have not been received or have not been paid yet).

Friend's Financial Report

Michelle said she received a report from Marty indicating that there has been no activity in the Friends Account. The Board of Directors for the Friends 501(c)3 is still being formed. Marty indicated she is willing to serve on this Board. DaNece indicated there still needs to be a couple more people for a full Board.

Guests

Resource Booklet Reprint/Presentation from UW with guest Sandy Root-Elledge. The presentation for this item occurred at the beginning of the meeting. At this time, the Council discussed whether or not to continue publishing the Resource Directory. Michelle confirmed that the Council is not in favor of reprinting the Resource Directory in its current form. Michelle asked for a motion to collaborate with WIND. It was noted that Nina has already been designated as the contact person to work on the website link. Cynthia volunteered to help review the content for a new brochure (no design work, however). The Council agreed that currently, the WCWI will do a brochure and will evaluate the need for printed versions in one year's time. There was discussion regarding how to judge the need for printed versions. A counter on the website was suggested and keeping track of the number of requests for prints.

DaNece moved to collaborate with the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) regarding women's resources in Wyoming and that Nina be the contact for the website and Cynthia be the contact for public relations with reevaluation in June to determine the need for printed versions of a resource directory. Cynthia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pinnacle Award/DFS proposal for collaboration with Andy Aldrich. Andy explained that the DFS had been considering a business award similar to the Pinnacle Award (name has been changed to Summit Award) being developed by WCWI. DFS is proposing to collaborate with WCWI in launching such an award. DFS wants to raise businesses' awareness of the positive impact they can have on families and the benefits businesses can derive from these positive impacts. Council members and Andy discussed the work to be done to launch the award program. Andy suggested that DFS could provide the promotional materials and WCWI could help in the development and distribution of the materials.

Michelle noted that it is difficult for WCWI to juggle all its projects and that collaboration of this kind would be helpful to both entities. Andy described a notebook concept that would contain descriptions of the different mechanisms businesses could use to support employees and their

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families, such as flextime, telecommuting, job sharing, etc. Discussion ensued again regarding how to collaborate, i.e., what needed to be done: brochure, workbook, etc. Mary volunteered to be Andy's contact with WCWI. The Council indicated Mary will need to work with Sandy in the WBC, Andy in DFS, and people in the Department of Workforce Services. Other ideas were discussed, such as the use of stickers for all business award winners or nominees, and whether or not several categories should be used, such as a category for nonprofits, a category for federal or state agencies, etc.

DaNece moved to form an alliance with the Department of Family Services (DFS) and other agencies, to pursue establishing an award that recognizes businesses with family-friendly practices. Mary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Health

Race for the Cure 8/28/04. Sherrill reported that WCWI raised \$130 for breast cancer research. Michelle noted that next year WCWI should consider combining with the WBC team. Sherrill indicated she would be willing to coordinate the event for WCWI again next year.

Girl Power and the Wyoming Women's Foundation (WWF) Grant. Nina informed the Council that \$1,650 will be needed to bring the Girl Power workshop to Wyoming. Jan and Nina have been pursuing grants to fund the effort, such as applying to the WWF. Some commitments for in-kind contributions have already been received, such as from the Girl Scouts, that have established the site for the Girl Power workshop in Rock Springs. Casper is also a tentative site, but receipt of the WWF grant will be needed in order to obtain sufficient funding. Nina and Jan asked if WCWI could fund both the remainder of the money needed to bring Girl Power to Rock Springs, as well as cover the entire cost of a second workshop in Casper, if the WWF grant is not received. Michelle deferred the discussion to the strategic planning session taking place after the business meeting.

Legislative

Bookmarks. This was a quick project initiated at the previous meeting and accomplished during August and September—bookmarks that could be handed out encouraging women to vote. Council members received bookmarks to distribute in their Districts. Nina and Diane estimated the total cost of the bookmark project was about \$200.

Home and Community

Wyoming Woman of Distinction Luncheon. The lunch for awarding Wyoming Woman of Distinction will be held in Rock Springs. Jan has coordinated a no host lunch on October 1. She already has over 30 people attending (\$10 per person is being charged to cover the catering costs). Kathy Karpan will be the keynote speaker. The Council congratulated Jan on doing such a good job in generating interest in the WCWI's Woman of Distinction award.

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Wyoming Woman of Distinction Form Reformat. The Council had significant discussions regarding the requirements presented on the Woman of Distinction nomination form. The Council concluded the following changes should be made to the draft presented at the meeting:

- Strike out “previous calendar year” on all four bullet points at the beginning of the instructions.
- Insert language that specifies the award is “once in a life-time”.
- Add to the materials to be submitted that all materials should be typed or legibly printed.
- Allow one page for biographical sketch of the nominee in the materials to be submitted.
- Change the materials to be submitted to eliminate requirement of a photo to an indication that a photo will be required of the nominee who wins the award.
- Change the materials to be submitted to clarify that the stamped, self-addressed post-card or envelope should have the nominator’s name and address for purposes of notifying the nominator of receipt of the nomination.
- Change the box format of the nomination form to something more user friendly.

Jan moved to amend the Woman of Distinction nomination form as described above. Nina seconded the motion. Ten members voted for the motion, one opposed (Cynthia).

Old Business

1. **State Survey.** The press conference intended to announce release of the survey is no longer relevant and will not be held.
2. **Wage Disparity Ad Hoc.** Jan indicated she still has received no comments from the rest of the Council.
3. **Website.** Diane reported on the progress in launching the website.
4. **NACW Conference Bid.** Michelle informed the Council that representatives from Casper had contacted her for an opportunity to be considered as the host city for the conference. The Council discussed the interest expressed by attendees at the NACW Conference for the conference in Jackson Hole, the activities and setting of the different venues, and the incentives the Casper representative had listed. Jan moved to put in a bid to host the 2007 NACW conference in Jackson. Nina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Proposed By-law change on attendance.** Michelle went over the proposed change to the by-laws, as indicated in the meeting packet hand-out. There was a brief discussion regarding attendance and the wording proposed. Teresa suggested that the text be clarified to read: “Attendance is required. Members who miss two (2) meetings during a calendar year will be contacted by the chairperson prior to the next meeting. A council

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member missing fifty (50) percent or more of the meetings in a calendar year will be asked to resign from the Council so that their constituents can be fully represented.”

Jan moved to amend the by-laws to include the proposed Article 1, Section 2, as amended above. DaNece seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Jane Curry presentations.** The Council watched a video of one of Jane Curry’s theatrical presentations. Ms. Curry’s fee is \$2,000 plus expenses. The Council considered retaining Ms. Curry for a presentation during Women’s History Month. After some discussion, Jenny moved to not pursue the Jane Curry presentations. DaNece seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
7. **Women’s Conference.** DaNece summarized activities at the Wyoming Women’s Conference for Council members. She informed the Council that changing the minimum wage is the set project of the Silver Hair Legislators for this year. They would love to have some help. DaNece also informed the Council that on October 15, in Cheyenne, Cynthia Lummis is hosting a Women’s Money Conference. Dee Lee will be the main presenter at the Lincoln Theatre. Ms. Lummis would also like to talk to the WCWI about CDFIs (lending organizations). After some discussion, DaNece was assigned to contact Ms. Lummis regarding a presentation at the next face-to-face meeting.
8. **Any other old business.** Michelle introduced the “Ask Me How” packets, which contain get out the vote materials. Each Council member received a packet and was asked to distribute the materials.

Jan moved to have the fall face-to-face meeting in the hometown of that year’s Woman of Distinction award winner. DaNece seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Merna brought a list of talking points for the Wyoming Tech Prep Consortium, which she gave to Diane for distribution to Council members.

New Business

1. **Vacancies.** Michelle noted there is one at-large position open, one position in the Sheridan area and one position in the Cody area. Michelle advocated age diversity in pursuing Council appointments and directed Diane to do a press release announcing the current vacancies.
2. **Nominating Committee Appointments.** Members were polled for interest in Executive Council positions for consideration by the nominating committee.
3. **Cleopatra Project.** Information has been received regarding a support program that targets the needs of sexual abuse victims. Jan will distribute this information to the Wyoming Association of Mental Health Boards at their October meeting.

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4. **Next meeting.** Michelle proposed a schedule of meetings through June: November 6 (8:30 a.m. teleconference), January 8 (10:00 a.m. face-to-face in Casper), March 5 (8:30 a.m. teleconference), May 14 (8:30 a.m. teleconference), and June 4 (10:00 a.m. face-to-face in Casper). DaNece moved to accept the proposed schedule of meetings. Sherrill seconded the motion. Cynthia asked for confirmation that her absence from the November 6 meeting would be excused since she has an NACW Board meeting to attend. The Council confirmed that the absence is excused.

DaNece moved to provide financial support for Cynthia to attend the National Board meetings in November and March to include transportation, lodging, and meals. Sherrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.