



Alameda County

Commission on the Status of Women

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, January 8, 2025 @ 6:30-8:30 PM

The mission of the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) is to represent the women of Alameda County in maximizing social equality and parity for women of all ages in such areas as housing, employment, health services, child care, elder care, education, transportation, credit, legal rights, and community services.

COMMISSION MEMBERS	
Nina Senn - PRESENT	Conference of Mayors
Susan Burgess-Lent, Vice Chair - PRESENT	District 5
Guadalupe Angulo, Treasurer – PRESENT	District 2
Orly Amey, Chair – PRESENT	District 1
Khilynn Fowler – ABSENT	District 3
Patricia M. Castro - PRESENT	District 3
Carlotta Brown - ABSENT	District 4
Kathryn Lybarger - PRESENT (VIRTUAL)	District 5
Sheweet Yohannes - ABSENT	District 3
Shannon Holbrook – ABSENT	District 5
Ilham S. Malik - PRESENT	District 2
Vacant	District 1
Vacant	District 2
Vacant	District 1
Vacant	District 4
Vacant	District 4
Vacant	Human Relations Commission

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Item No.	Topics
1.	Call to Order & Welcome Community Agreements Review Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM by Chair Amey. Roll call conducted; noted absences: Ilhan Malick, Carlotta Brown, and Shannon Holbrook.
2.	Approval of Minutes November 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes were not available; approval deferred to next meeting.
3.	Commissioner Announcements – 2024 Accomplishments and Updates February Meeting Reschedule: Approved motion to move February meeting from the 12th (holiday) to the 19th. Commissioner Orientation Guide: Updates in progress to include AI-generated transcriptions and historical discussions. SharePoint Transition: Exploring a county-managed SharePoint site for document storage. County Email for Commissioners: Alameda County IT is investigating feasibility; currently, a commission-wide county email has been established.
4.	Alameda County Sheriff Update and Q&A Sheriff Sanchez presented on jail programming for incarcerated women at Santa Rita Jail, including: Survey findings on educational and vocational interests (e.g., GED prep, automotive repair, cosmetology, graphic design). Expansion of job training programs in partnership with local trade unions. Challenges in post-release support, particularly late-night transportation. Efforts to introduce music composition, yoga, and business development programs. Invitation extended for COSW members to tour the jail to assess needs and identify advocacy opportunities.

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	<p>COSW Jail Tour – Sheriff Sanchez invited commissioners for a tour of Santa Rita Jail; security clearance forms will be provided.</p> <p>Vocational Training Expansion – Sheriff Sanchez noted a strong interest in cosmetology, construction, digital skills, and business development among incarcerated women. COSW will explore connections to providers.</p> <p>Post-Release Support & Transportation – Commissioners discussed gaps in late-night release support, exploring probation partnerships and potential rideshare voucher programs to assist released women.</p> <p>Education & Counseling Needs – There is demand for mental health services and mentorship. COSW will seek potential counselors or community-based mentors to support this effort.</p> <p>Women’s Programming Gaps – Sheriff Sanchez emphasized limited services for women due to short stays. COSW will explore ways to structure condensed programs to maximize impact.</p> <p>Advocacy & Board Engagement – Commissioners expressed interest in raising these issues with the Board of Supervisors and incorporating findings from the jail tour into future COSW initiatives.</p>
5.	<p>Women's History Month Planning and Proposed Activities</p> <p>Commissioners discussed potential engagement strategies, noting that COSW has historically not hosted its own programming.</p> <p>A proclamation from the Board of Supervisors will be received on behalf of COSW.</p> <p>A commissioner suggested partnering with local organizations instead of creating a standalone event, leveraging existing community initiatives.</p> <p>A Rotary Club representative in Livermore was mentioned as a possible partner for COSW’s participation in a Women’s History Month event.</p> <p>The focus will be on attending and supporting various events across the county rather than organizing a single gathering.</p>
6.	<p>2024-2025 Retreat Debrief</p> <p>Commissioners reviewed key takeaways from the 2024-2025 COSW Retreat.</p> <p>A thank-you card for the retreat facilitator, Tammy Rice, was circulated, with an optional contribution for a gift.</p> <p>The retreat emphasized structuring a pipeline for women and girls to enter historically male-dominated professions. The Commissioner Orientation Guide is being updated with AI-generated transcriptions and notes to ensure continuity in discussions and decisions.</p> <p>Plans were discussed for setting up a SharePoint site under the county's purview for better document management.</p> <p>Efforts to revitalize the Youth Commission were highlighted as a key priority.</p>
7, 8.	<p>Treasurer Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous financial actions were acknowledged, including the successful allocation of \$8,800 for youth scholarships in honor of former Supervisors Wilma Chan and Mary King. • SSA staff acknowledged that there would be a \$3,750 cut to all Commissions. <p>CEDAW Ordinance Update: The COSW finalized the CEDAW Ordinance and submitted it to the Board of Supervisors. It is currently awaiting a hearing and discussion in a working session. Commissioner Nina provided a brief update, stating that the next step is to receive feedback from the Board.</p>
9.	<p>Agenda Building: Jail Visit Planning – Commissioners to coordinate logistics for a tour of Santa Rita Jail; Women’s Hall of Fame Coordination – Discussion on COSW’s involvement in upcoming events;</p>

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	Future Speaker Invitations – Identifying organizations and individuals to present at upcoming meetings; Policy & Advocacy Priorities – Continuing efforts on CEDAW ordinance and other legislative actions.
10, 11.	Public Comment There were no comments from the public. Appreciations, Closing & Adjournment Chair Amey adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.