



Alameda County

Commission on the Status of Women

Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 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, Chair – PRESENT	Conference of Mayors
Susan Burgess-Lent, Vice Chair - PRESENT	District 5
Guadalupe Angulo, Treasurer – PRESENT (VIRTUAL)	District 2
Orly Amey, Secretary – PRESENT (VIRTUAL)	District 1
Khilynn Fowler – ABSENT	District 3
Patricia M. Castro - ABSENT	District 3
Carlotta Brown - ABSENT	District 4
Kathryn Lybarger - PRESENT	District 5
Sheweeet Yohannes - PRESENT	District 3
Shannon Holbrook – PRESENT (VIRTUAL)	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.	<p>Call to Order & Welcome Community Agreements Review</p> <p>Chair Senn called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m, took roll call, and acknowledged the existence of the COSW’s Community Agreements.</p>
2.	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Commissioner Lybarger motioned to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2024 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Yohannes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.</p>
3.	<p>Commissioner Announcements – Updates</p> <p>Commissioners provided brief personal introductions.</p> <p>Calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission meeting recess during December 2024 – no meeting will take place. <p>Housekeeping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commsioners were reminded that the commissioner orientatation document is available online for review.
4.	<p>“Domestic Violence, Resources, and Services in Alameda County”</p> <p>Erin Scott, Executive Director of the Family Violence Law Center and former commissioner, presented on domestic violence, resources, and services in Alameda County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The discussion addressed the intersection of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking, and how these issues are often separated due to government structures and funding, though survivors experience them as interconnected. The Family Violence Law Center provides legal services, particularly civil restraining orders, which allow survivors to address key issues like custody and housing.• California's pro-survivor laws provide legal protections, but systemic challenges remain, such as inconsistent judicial support and restrictive funding, particularly for undocumented individuals. A significant development is the creation of a new, confidential database to help survivors access homeless services, a key issue as domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women. Alameda County’s progress in racial equity analysis was highlighted, though there is a need for more intersectionality to ensure the experiences of Black and brown women are addressed.• The need for ongoing advocacy, intersectional equity approaches, and a deeper analysis of county funding allocations was emphasized.

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	<p>Recommended next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued development of the new, confidential database to help gender-based violence survivors access homeless services, with ongoing meetings to refine details and ensure compliance with the Violence Against Women Act. Advocacy efforts should continue, with a focus on incorporating gender equity into broader county-level discussions and ensuring intersectionality in racial and gender equity analyses. A critical examination of how county funds are allocated to domestic violence and women’s services was suggested, encouraging stakeholders to dig deeper into how funds are used and not just rely on face-value reports. <p>These steps aim to enhance support systems for survivors and ensure equitable resource distribution.</p>
5.	<p>Treasurer Report and Budget Request to BOS for funding to start Alameda County Office of Women’s Policy</p> <p>Commissioners proposed allocating \$10,000 for various commission activities. The breakdown includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5,000 for the Women's Hall of Fame, with \$4,000 for scholarships and \$1,000 to cover Commissioners' attendance. \$3,500 for an engagement luncheon, which includes community leaders and elected officials. \$1,000 for a retreat and hospitality for meetings. \$500 for outreach, particularly social media and engagement materials. <p>Commissioner Yohannes motioned to approve the proposed budget, with a second from Vice Chair Burgess-Lent. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The Commission emphasized the importance of staying connected with community members and proposed scheduling a retreat on November 2nd to discuss further plans.</p>
6.	<p>Updates from Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee</p> <p>In collaboration with Supervisor Tam’s office, the Commission made progress on drafting a CEDAW ordinance for Alameda County, which is seen as a significant milestone. The associated memo was reviewed; however, progress has been delayed due to the Board of Supervisors being on recess. The Commission is awaiting further steps, including collaboration with County Counsel, to present the ordinance for a hearing, with the goal of it being voted on by the Board of Supervisors in 2024. Concerns were expressed regarding the timing of this process.</p>
7.	<p>Agenda Building and Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024-25 Retreat Planning: to be held November 2, agenda to be distributed at October COSW meeting Committee Overview and Assignments WHOF Vacancies (COSW) & Recruitment Plan Collaboration on SSA legislative breakfast
8.	<p>Public Comment</p>

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	There were no comments from the public.
9.	Appreciations, Closing & Adjournment Chair Senn adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.