

## COSW Meeting Minutes - August 11, 2021

### **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

#### **Present:**

Commissioners Orly Amey, Chair; Martha Kreeger, Vice-Chair (joined after roll call); Linda Tangren, Treasurer; RocQuel Johnson, Member at Large; Olga Borjon; Aliza Kazmi; Amy Levine; Nina Senn; Courtney Welch

SSA Staff: Kim Fogel

Guest speakers: Anna Gruver, Delphina Melbourne, and Jill Miller representing the Alameda County Department of Public Health

#### **Not present:**

Commissioners Ge'Nell Gary; Marie Gilmore; Yasi-Safinya Davies, Member at Large; Erin Scott; Meredith Walker

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Levine motioned to approve the 6/9/2021 meeting minutes, with a second from Commissioner Borjon. The motion passed.

Approval of the 7/14/21 minutes is tabled until the 9/8/2021 meeting, where we will approve the 7/14/21 and 8/11/2021 meeting minutes.

### **Commissioner Announcements**

Chair Amey reminded commissioners that the secretary position is still vacant and until appointed we would do a rotating schedule of folks volunteering to take minutes.

Chair Amey reminded commissioners to coordinate meetings with their supervisors and they may use the template Commissioner Kazmi created. Commissioner Tangren volunteered to make contact for D4.

Commissioner Borjon organized for the County Health Care Services Agency to speak with the Commission in September about the impacts of homelessness on women, the group previously presented to HRC and CCSWG.

## **Social Media Policy**

Director Soublet was unable to be present to discuss the social media policy with the Commission as planned so we will reschedule for another time or have a representative attend her social media discussion with the HRC.

## **Presentation: Black Maternal Healthcare Outcomes + Discussion**

Staff from the Alameda County Department of Public Health: Maternal, Paternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MPCAH) unit presented to the Commission about maternal healthcare and outcomes for Black women in Alameda County. The presentation may be viewed [here](#).

#DeliverBirthJustice campaign: The 5 Bay counties pooled their state resources for the Perinatal Equity Initiative to launch an awareness campaign to get black birthing people connected with their programs so they can either be reached before conception to ensure they're on track to have a healthy pregnancy or so they can receive pregnancy support to improve their birthing outcomes. Guests shared the promotional video which may be viewed [here](#), which highlights real stories from real black mothers highlighting their challenges when trying to birth in the 5 counties.

Maternal mortality statistics show it's safer for white women to give birth in this nation. The Deliver Birth Justice campaign aims to help people to understand what black pregnant people are facing daily, which makes it clear that dismantling racism is the only solution. Black birthing people face structural racism that leads to cumulative stress that makes it difficult to have healthy pregnancies. Healthcare providers must understand how their racialized socialization and implicit bias impacts the lives of black women, and policymakers have a role to play in this by enacting policies to dismantle the structural racism that affects them. Black moms need better housing and better jobs! Action toolkit for policymakers, healthcare providers, and the community at [DeliverBirthJustice.org](https://DeliverBirthJustice.org)

### How ACCOSW can help:

- Uplift parents' voices
- Follow and share the work being done around the [#DeliverBirthJustice](#) campaign
- Raise awareness about Black maternal and infant health
- Fund doula services
- Support [Beloved Birth Black Centering](#)

There was no action taken because we did not have a quorum.

## **Retreat/Strategic Planning Updates**

Commissioners discussed creating a replicable model/PPT of tips and pointers to guide conversations with supervisors. Commissioners able to secure meetings will debrief with the full group at the September meeting, sharing back what we learned from our supervisor meetings.

Commissioner Borjon reminded the group that Supervisors are expecting us to show what we're doing as a Commission, our goals, community activities, etc. Chair Amey said she would start a [draft PPT](#) of the basic strategic discussion that will include our plans to help advance COVID-19 recovery efforts. We should set expectation - going forward, we will need X to support COVID-19 recovery efforts - a good bridge to connect with them on.

Commissioner Levine advised we share with supervisors the data report Vice-Chair Kreeger shared re: COVID-19 impacts.

Commissioner Johnson asked, how do we represent the districts we live in and uplift the women there? Each represents districts that have different community needs, so in meetings with supervisors, we must be sure to highlight the very specific ways we can support our unique communities. In consideration of how women are having a hard time during this period, she also reminded folks to be sure to demonstrate to supervisors the intersectionality among economics, housing, healthcare, and education.

Commissioner Senn advised that we be sure to highlight what the "ask" is or that we will be following up with "asks" after the retreat and we have more direction. We should make sure we're clear on the supervisor's priorities and that there is clear alignment, plus update them on where the State CCSWG is on supporting local commissions. She also recommended the Commission research technologies like Slack to streamline the Commission's workstreams as opposed to working via email.

Commissioner Amey said she would follow up with potential strategic planning retreat facilitators.

## **Treasurer's Report and Budget Update**

There was no report/update, Treasurer Tangren had to leave the meeting early.

## **Committee Reports**

Committees did not meet.

## **Open Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**Agenda Building**

Slated for the September meeting are the presentation re: effects of homelessness in the county, reports from supervisor meetings, and retreat planning based on the items discussed at this meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.