

Minutes
MORRIS COUNTY WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD
January 16, 2014

Board Room, Morris View Healthcare Center
540 West Hanover Ave., Morris Township

Members present: Pam Bennett-Santoro, Edith Frank, Connie Ward, Sibi Saenz-Williams, Aida Visakay, Patti Page, Carole Harper, Patricia O'Dowd-Donohue.

Absent: Tina Liu Jen, Elaine Muller, Michele Roers, Deirdre Wheatley-Liss, Ginny Lyttle.

Staff: Frank Pinto, present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Acting Chair, Pam Bennett-Santoro.

Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law

Acting Chair Pam Bennett-Santoro advised that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and filed with the public.

Approval of Minutes

On Motion of Aida Visakay, seconded by Edith Frank, the committee approved the minutes of November 21, 2013.

Agenda

1. Call to order

Chair's report:

Pam Bennett-Santoro advised the committee that she spoke to new Freeholder Kathryn DeFillippo, who sends her regards and is interested in attending future meetings.

Old Business

1. Freeholder meetings: The committee plans to attend Freeholder meetings/work sessions to learn what projects the Freeholders are working on. The schedule of meetings for 2014 is now posted on the County website at www.morriscountynj.gov. Agendas are posted on Monday for the meeting on Wednesday. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, with the work sessions at 4:30pm and the Public sessions at 7pm. It was pointed out that the work sessions are open to the public to attend, but public comment is not permitted until the public session. The Freeholders often hold their second meeting of the month in one of the municipalities. Frank Pinto advised the committee that the county twitter feed is 40404.

Below is the schedule of meetings and members that will attend to represent the Committee:

January 22, 2014	Pam Bennett-Santoro
February 12, 2014	Aida Visakay
February 26, 2014	Sibi Saenz-Williams Connie Ward

March 12, 2014 Aida Visakay
 Connie Ward
March 26, 2014 Carole Harper
 Patti Page

2. Four members attended the last Freeholders' meeting and received a Proclamation naming January 11, 2014 Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Pam Bennett-Santoro, Edith Frank, Aida Visakay, and Connie Ward were in attendance, along with the Director of JBWS, Patricia Sly. The members noted that only two towns in Morris County have not done anything in recognition of Human Trafficking. These towns are Madison and Chatham Township. Freeholder DeFillippo asked whether the committee had anyone that could speak to a group she belongs to about human trafficking.

New business

1. Vacancies: Currently, with the appointment of new members, there are no vacancies.
2. Nomination and Election of Officers for 2014.
After discussion, Carole Harper nominated the following slate: Chair: Pam Bennett-Santoro
Vice Chair: Aida Visakay
Secretary: Patricia O'Dowd-Donohue
Committee voted to accept the Slate of officers unanimously.
3. Annual Report: Chair asked for a volunteer to write the annual report. Pam Bennett-Santoro will review the minutes of 2013, identify the issues addressed by the Committee and prepare a one page summary for the Freeholders. The Chair will email draft to all members for comments prior to submission.
4. 2014 Plans: A lengthy discussion was held regarding what the Committee wants to focus on in 2014. The following suggestions were discussed:
 - a. Ready to Run: This is a program to assist potential candidates in getting ready to run for office. It has been several years since the Committee last sponsored this symposium. (Pam Bennett-Santoro)
 - b. Financial Literacy for Women (Pam Bennett-Santoro); or perhaps partner with the Chamber of Commerce (Aida will explore); partner with SHERM on workforce readiness/interview/resume skills/pay disparity (Connie will explore)
 - c. Healthcare Costs (Aida Visakay)
 - d. Human Trafficking: Keeping the dialogue going even after the Superbowl. Pair with JBWS; offer a training/event on "Lessons learned from the Superbowl" in 6 months. (Carole Harper). Idea to issue a press release in July and ask to appear on the county TV show with Joe Garifo, invite Ginny and who else? Maybe someone from the Polaris Project or FBI to speak. Also maybe contact the Jessie Friese show- a mother/daughter show on WMTR. Frank Pinto will speak to Joe Garifo about scheduling us for the July show.
 - e. Female veterans: Connie Ward recently accepted a Pinnacle award on behalf of SHERM for a program they held for Homeless Vets called Tomorrow's Promise: Hire your Heroes- Operation Stand Down. This included giveaways, health services (medical and dental), financial literacy, and food. The county has a liaison for Veterans, Charles Jurgensen, and is the only county with a VA clinic in a county building. It was also discussed that there is no shelter available for single woman who are homeless (other than JBWS).
 - f. Follow up from last conference-"Redefining Cinderella". Discussion about the great feedback from that conference- discussion about offering a similar program for mothers and daughters. May be able to partner with the girl scouts. Pam Bennett-Santoro, Sibi Saenz-Williams and Carole Harper all verbalized a strong interest in finishing this by doing a symposium. Committee decided that all members will bring ideas for this symposium to the March meeting. Everyone

will speak to their contacts, including Pam Bennett-Santoro- the Girl Scouts; Connie Ward- St. Elizabeth's College; Carole Harper- CCM.

Announcements

Michelle Roers gave birth to a healthy baby girl- Lilyanna. The committee sends its congratulations to mom, dad and Lilyanna, a future member!

Sibi Saenz-Williams opened her own business and is offering her first program at St Elizabeth's Montessori School. She developed the curriculum which focuses on healthy eating habits, identifying feelings and success in life. Congratulations Sibi!

Frank Pinto introduced new members to Morris View, the wonderful county nursing home facility.

Motion to adjourn made by Aida Visakay, seconded by Pat O'Dowd-Donohue. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia O'Dowd-Donohue

Patricia O'Dowd-Donohue, Secretary