

Minutes  
MORRIS COUNTY WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD  
March 20, 2014

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

**Members present:** Pam Bennett-Santoro, Edith Frank, Elaine Muller, Connie Ward, Sibi Saenz-Williams, Aida Visakay, Michele Roers, Deirdre Wheatley-Liss Tina Liu Jen, Ginny Lyttle, Patricia O'Dowd-Donohue.

**Absent:** Carole Harper, Patti Page, Sibi Saenz-Williams.

**Staff:** Frank Pinto, present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by 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.

Frank Pinto agreed to obtain copies of the County handbook for the next meeting.

Edith researched the issue of which town did not sponsor activities for Human Trafficking Awareness and advised the Committee it was Chatham Township.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On Motion of Ginny Lyttle, seconded by Tina Liu Jen, the committee approved the minutes of January 26, 2014.

### **Chair's report:**

Pam Bennett-Santoro prepared a draft of the Annual Report. Michelle Roers agreed to edit it and format it. Elaine suggested that after editing, we present it to Freeholders. Frank advised that as there are approximately 30 boards, all do not do presentations. Elaine withdrew suggestion. Committee decided that the report will be provided to Frank who will then distribute it to the Board of Freeholders. Committee members commended Pam on her excellent work compiling the report.

Frank also advised the committee that he provided our schedule of meetings to Freeholders Kathryn DeFillippo and Hank Lyon who have both expressed an interest in our activities.

### **Old Business**

1. Freeholder meetings: As previously discussed, the committee decided to attend Freeholder meetings/work sessions to learn what projects the Freeholders are working on. There has been some confusion with dates and there have been meeting cancellations due to snow. Frank asked to be advised in advance if we plan to attend. There is a meeting on March 26, 2014 for public comment on the proposed budget at the Parsippany Town hall: 4:30 is the work session and 7pm is the public meeting. April 9, 2014 is the public hearing for adoption of the budget. It was noted that there is a proposed 0% tax increase, which was accomplished through several measures, including debt reduction (by paying it off aggressively), reducing the capital budget (not bonding for as many projects) and workforce reduction (staff cuts at Morris View and the Library through attrition).

One member directed members to review pages 6,7 and 22; observing a \$100,000 budget line for carpeting in the County Clerk's office.

Michelle advised that we should consider partnering with the agency directors of many social service agencies in the county on issues we have in common with them, i.e. homelessness. As the timeframe prior to the budget approval is very short, the committee noted that this year will be a stepping stone to decide priorities and advocate for next year's budget.

Suggestion made that the committee look at budget lines that show \$0 and research whether state/federal grants are being cut, then committee could advocate more strongly with the Freeholders in those areas. Aida noted that we need census data to focus our advocacy.

Members were reminded that meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. The schedule of meetings for 2014 is posted on the County website at [www.morriscountynj.gov](http://www.morriscountynj.gov). Agendas are posted on Monday for the meeting on Wednesday.

2. Data discussion. The Committee discussed methods to obtain data already being collected, and whether gender is being recorded in these data sources. Pam and Ginny did speak to the Bureau of Vital Statistics staff about gender data collection.

Frank suggested that Christine Marion, the Planning Director for the Morris County Planning Board be invited to the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss data, and what is available that is gender-based. She can direct us to sources.

Chair Pam will appoint a data subcommittee. Pam will also confirm that Sibi distributed the data that she collected. All members are asked to bring data they have compiled to the May meeting.

Michelle advised that MMC and St. Clare's Hospital have formed a Joint Community Health Committee which may will track health data over several counties at the end of this year. This will track health trends, and the Joint Community Health Committee will then look to make strides to address the trends as appropriate.

## **New business**

### 2014 Goals:

1. During 2013, there was alot of discussion about Human Trafficking. Committee will reopen this discussion in 6 months.
2. Joey G's TV show: The committee is welcome to do this show, if there are members available and willing. It will be filmed Friday mornings in June at CCM. Committee would need to provide Joe an outline. He will then "interview" the committee members with questions he prepares from the outline. Ginny Lyttle and Aida Visakay will do the program.

*Balance of the minutes were recorded by Edith Frank*

3. **Financial literacy for women**, continued discussion

Deirdre Wheatley-Liss will provide detailed list of resources from the private sector that do have teaching materials for financial literacy. Elaine Muller will research the county extension to find what resource they provide to the general public.

### **Gender related Data.**

Frank Pinto suggested that we look at the data we can get and that will lead us to an advocacy avenue  
**Motion** made by Deidre Wheatley-Liss, seconded by Elaine Muller:

For 2014 the Committee will focus on:

1. Human Trafficking follow-up
2. Demography. Continue data collection
3. County Budget. Become familiar with the Freeholder proposed budget.

Motion passed.

### **New Business/Announcements**

Tina Liu Jen distributed materials on the Ready to Run workshops this weekend

Edith Frank invited members to attend the program of the League of Women Voters on Domestic Violence to be held on March 24, 2014.

The annual Phenomenal Women program will be held in June this year. Nominations may be sent to Tina Liu Jen.

PBS is showing the series “Half the Sky” about issues women face around the world.

Congratulations to Michele Roers on her new baby

Connie Ward has a new position – executive recruiter for the HSB bank.

Motion to adjourn made by Edith Frank; seconded by Aida Visakay. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia O’Dowd-Donohue**

Patricia O’Dowd-Donohue, Secretary

And

Edith Frank, secretary *pro temp*