

# MINUTES

## MORRIS COUNTY WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 17, 2012

Director's Conference Room, Morris View

**Members Present-** Michelle Roers, Sibi Saenz-Williams, Patricia O'Dowd Donohue, Dianne Hartshorn, Pam Bennett-Santoro, Maryellen Wentz, Ginny Lyttle

**Absent:** Edith Frank, Carole Harper, Elaine Muller

**Also in Attendance:** Frank Pinto

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM by Chair Michelle Roers

### **Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law**

Chairperson Michelle Roers announced that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided and filed with the public.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On motion of member Dianne Hartshorn, seconded by member Patricia Donohue, the committee approved the minutes of the March 15, 2012

### **Agenda**

1. Status & finalization of 2011 Year End Report
  - a. Plan for release/delivery to Freeholders
2. Vacancies on our Committee (and recommendations/applications for new members)
3. Committee outreach/media
  - a. Joe Garifo's TV show
  - b. Morris County Website
4. Continued planning for the 2012 Women's Symposium
5. Other Business
6. Announcements

New Business- Meeting began with discussion about Human Trafficking, Report shared about Runaways being part of this problem. Dianne Hartshorn shared this conference which touched on the problem in Morris County.

We also discussed [yougivegoods.com](http://yougivegoods.com) as a way to support the Interfaith Food pantry, and other food/soup kitchen charities. Frank Pinto shared his experiences with this group.

2011 Annual Report- Report done, editing still needed. Michelle volunteered to do that. Schedule to give this to Freeholders at a June mtg.

Outreach/ Media-Joe Garifo's Morris County cable tv show- suggest that we do 15 minutes of the History of the Women's Advisory Committee and outreach for the Fall 2012 Symposium. Show is filmed at County College of Morris television studio. Sibi and Michelle volunteered to be on Joe's show, hopefully in late June/July.

Morris County Advisory Committee's Website- Morris County Human Services revised website will go live in July, Frank Pinto recommend we look at the website to learn how to use it. We were given a handout with a prototype of the Advisory Committee on Women's Home page. Question was asked about how people would contact the members of the committee? If anyone wants to contact us, it will be filtered thru the County and passed on to committee members. This website will enable our events to be included on the Morris County online calendars. (wufoo.com) survey

#### Vacancies in our Committee

Need for diversity of our members. Tina Lu (sp?) from Parsippany, and Teresa Williams, were names that were suggested be asked.

Fall Conference/Forum- "Redefining Cinderella, Challenging Gender Role Expectations and Stereotypes." Same topic as last year, but include younger women.

Keynote speaker- Sibi has arranged for this to talk about self-esteem, as a keynote speaker.

AAUW- Ginny suggested a resource "How to get from Here to There" from AAUW.

College of St. Elizabeth was mentioned as the place to hold the event, since it should hold 125 people in their new center. We could have Whole Wheat Pizza to eat. Hold it in the early evening, so that mothers and daughters can attend together.

Michelle will contact St. E's and ask if any of these dates are available. Wed., Oct. 17, Tues. October 16 or Wed. Oct. 23

Mary Ellen said she would do a workshop piece with her daughter, as a clown, on kindness and diversity.

From our March meeting, Elaine Muller will follow-up on asking Lady Gaga's mother to participate, as part of Lady Gaga's "Born This Way foundation". Lady Gaga was born in Parsippany.

Food was discussed- maybe ask Morris County Vo-Tech High School to handle catering, or local Primavera's whole wheat pizzas. Maybe TD bank could fund, J&J could be asked to donate goody bags, Mary Ellen says that her bank has cut way back on community funding.

Sibi Saenz-Williams will be the chair.

Subcommittee- Sibi, MaryEllen, Edith, Elaine, Michelle, Ginny, Carole

Fall Survey- Survey for 2012 Fall Festival, discussion on value of doing this survey. Would we reach enough variety of women? Would we reach enough women from all over the County? One question suggested for survey, are there barriers to women voting in Morris County? Another is to talk about services in Morris County, so we can prioritize. Should we focus on one specific area? Or do we want to do an opinion poll? Can we do a non-partisan survey re: voting to present to the Freeholders? Should we ask Debra Walsh from Rutgers for their help, information/data? Pam will contact Stephanie Hoopes-Halpin, former member of the Women's Advisory Committee, and ask her about the feasibility of doing this survey. Pat, Pam and Dianne will be on the survey committee.

#### Announcements-Letters

1. June 15, Gender Parity Council event, Linda Howser is presenting, announced by Dianne Hartshorn.
2. Ginny shared with us copies of the new AAUW report, "Crossing the Line- Sexual Harassment at School", printed in November 2011
3. Michelle announced that the United Way was looking for volunteers to help them with the Community Investment Committee. If interested contact Michelle
4. Pam announced that her children's elementary school was renaming their library in memory of her daughter, the Paula Rosina Santoro Library at Normandy Park School. Dedication to be held on May 31 in Morristown.
5. SART follow-up
6. Patricia announced that the Catholic Hospitals were closing their 14 day inpatient substance abuse programs, causing a gap in services for women in Morris County.
7. Announced a 10 year plan to eliminate homelessness in Morris County.
8. United Way is updating their ALICE report. Their new version will be for the entire state of NJ, county by county data.
9. Reminder that the Freeholders were hosting their annual Volunteer Reception at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on Tuesday, May 29, to thank all the members of their Advisory Committees. 5:30 - 7:30 PM
10. Letter shared from the Interfaith Food Pantry, thanking us for our support.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20 at 7 PM, and November 15.

Dinner served at 6:30 PM.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion of member Patricia Donohue, seconded by member Dianne Hartshorn the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Bennett-Santoro ,

Committee Secretary