

## **MINUTES**

### **MORRIS COUNTY WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**May 16, 2013**

**Board Room, Morris View Healthcare Center**

**540 West Hanover Ave., Morris Township**

Called to order 6:05 PM by chairperson Michelle Roers

**Members Present-** Michelle Roers, Pam Bennett-Santoro, Patricia O'Dowd Donohue, Sibi Saenz-Williams, Carole Harper, Virginia Lyttle

**Absent-**Tina Lzu Jen, Edith Frank, Elaine Muller

**Guests-** Freeholder Hank Lyons, Frank Pinto

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

Co-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 Carole Harper, seconded by member Ginny Lyttle, the committee approved the minutes of March 21, 2013, with corrections, spelling of Pam Bennett-Santoro's name.

#### **Agenda-**

1. Call to order
  2. Conversation with Freeholder Hank Lyons
  3. Data Collections
  4. Vacancies- Outreach
  5. New business
  6. Announcements
1. Meeting was called to order by Michelle Roers at 6:25 PM, with introductions of all the members of the Committee. Michelle gave an overview of the work done by the Advisory Committee on Women for the Freeholders. Freeholder Hank Lyons was visiting and we discussed

how we could help the Freeholders, and Hank talked about how we could help him. Freeholder Lyons asked us to bring issues to him and we asked that he bring any issues to our committee too.

Freeholder Lyons said that the current issues that he sees that the freeholders are working on, 1) include creating a budget that does not raise property taxes and did not lose any services. 2) involving more non profits in the Morris County Non Profit Mall, on the old Greystone property. This will enable programs to have a low rent and to share resources. St. Clare's Behavioral Health has signed up already. Other RFPs are coming in.

2. Issues the Committee shared. Ginny Lyttle reported that the Governor vetoed Women's Pay equity bill. It had been passed by the Senate and the Assembly. He approved 1 of 4 prongs of the bill.

Michelle Roers commented that we are raising awareness of pay inequity. Morris County had a larger disparity than other counties in NJ. How can we raise awareness and support for that issue?

3. We have found that data is not collected by gender, in many of the County reports. This would make it easier to see how various policies affect women v. men. You can't find where the cracks are if you don't have the data.
4. In Morris County, there continues to be a need for affordable and accessible Child Care.
5. Transportation needs for working women.
6. Pam Bennett-Santoro shared the letter of commendation that she presented to Ms. Melyssa Pickett, who received a Girl Scout Gold Award in March 2013. Melyssa had worked with the Women's Advisory Committee and their Back to School Drive as part of her project.
7. We thanked Freeholder Lyons for visiting and look forward to working together.
8. We will send the minutes to Frank Pinto, who will have them posted on our website- which is part of the Morris County Website.

## Data Discussion

We reviewed the spread sheet that Sibi put together from the various sources from our committee.

Violence against women, JBWS was unable to give us any specific information. There was some discussion re: Morris County that is found in the Uniform Crime Report.

All believed that the number of restraining orders from this report was too low.

Sibi asked for Labor Stats, and requested that we give her links and data sources and year/date for data.

Pam asked how many women enter 9th grade and how many women graduate?

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/Rankings.aspx?state=NJ&ind=2126> from Frank Pinto.

Michelle suggested that we put this data on our website, when it's complete. We could reach out to Chamber of Commerce to find out how many women business owners there are in Morris County.

We should advocate the collection of data by gender, so we can better understand specific issues as they relate to women.

<http://morrishumanservices.org/boards/Women/index.asp#forms>

## Membership Vacancies

2 vacancies - 3 candidates

To entertain all 3 good candidates at present, the bylaws would need to be amended to create 1 or 2 additional "Alternate" members. We could submit a proposal for a change in bylaws, and vote on it at the June meeting. This would amend the membership section of our by-laws. Frank located the bylaws specific to making changes.

Ginny proposed that we do that, Pat suggests that we're voting on amending the by-laws at our June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. See proposal below.

### Article III Membership

Membership shall consist of 11 persons, AND TWO PERSONS APPOINTED AS ALTERNATE MEMBERS, appointed by the Board, who reside in Morris County, are representative of the community, and who have a demonstrated interest in women's issues.

### 6. Announcements-

1. Pam distributed letter that was given to Gold Award candidate, at her ceremony.
2. Ginny distributed bookmarks with information about upcoming Somerset Hills AAUW gently used book sale.
3. Sibi asked that her first name be changed to Sibi, rather than the formal Sibila.
4. Pam shared about the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Phenomenal Women's Awards Dinner,

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2013 at 6 PM. There are two more meetings in 2013 Sept. 19 and November 21. Dinner served at 5:30 PM.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, on motion of member Ginny Lyttle, seconded by Pat O'Dowd Donohue, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Bennett-Santoro, Secretary