



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

BRC MEETING July 8, 2020 Notes

IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Haley Ausserer
Dr. Bernice Bass de Martinez
Lee Battershell
Emily Bender
Alexis Blount
Vicki Boyd
Shayne Corriea-Fernandez
Zima Creason
Charmen Goehring
Kendra Harris
Dina Howard
Maya Howard
Marian Johnston
Eulonda Lea
Leslie Levitas
Dr. Ali Tucker Lichtenstein
Dr. Tonya Lindsey
Maranell (Marty) McKnew
Danielle Metzinger
Dr. Sheree Meyer
PJ Missman
Erin Saberi
Nilda Valmores

Members of the Public: Veronica Boulus, Anne East, Alana Ramsay (Co-Chair Youth Ad Hoc Advisory Committee), Debbie Richardson Brister.

Special Assistants to the Commission: Jasmine Partida, Molly Nugent



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

MEETING NOTES

- I. **WELCOME (6:00PM-6:15PM)** Erin Saberi checked in with commissioners and members of the public and thanked everyone for their support throughout her illness. Some commissioners shared that this time feels confusing and overwhelming as COVID-19 continues.
- II. **UPDATES (6:15PM-6:40PM)** Quorum had not yet been reached to approve meeting minutes or make official BRC decisions, so the group proceeded with updates and announcements first.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Dr. Tonya Lindsey shared that the BRC community survey has received 66 responses so far. Participants have shared a strong interest in increased collaboration among community agencies and spearheading issue priorities, including protocols for fundraising. Dr. Lindsey reviewed key data demographics: of the 66 participants, the majority indicated that they are white or Hispanic/Latina, with some responses from women in the API and black/African-American communities. Most respondents own their own home or rent (pay mortgage or monthly rent). Carmichael, Citrus Heights, and East Sacramento zip codes are also heavily represented in the current data. Dr. Lindsey suggested that we reach out to folks who live in group home scenarios or healthcare settings. Marian Johnston suggested that we compare the demographics of the responses with those of the county.

Dr. Alexis Blount shared information from the qualitative data received through the survey to date. So far, respondents have focused on economic issues, housing, cultural issues, healthcare, domestic violence, gender equity & social justice, and incarceration. Dr. Blount noted that a request for “intergenerational mentoring” came up quite a bit in the survey responses, as well as career counseling. Erin Saberi suggested that the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee look into existing resources for mentoring groups/career counseling that we can share.



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Dr. Lindsey shared that we have had zero responses to the Spanish language survey so far (as of 7/8/2020). Erin Saberi suggested that the BRC team reach out to La Familia Counseling Center for ideas regarding outreach to Spanish-speaking constituents. Shayne Corriea-Fernandez offered to assist with outreach to the Spanish speaking community as well. Vicki Boyd suggested that we reach out to Sister Jean Schafer, S.D.S. to ask about women in the Catholic community, and in particular those working with survivors of trafficking.

There was a discussion regarding the fact that some communities are unable to respond as they are bogged down right now due to COVID-19 and also heavily involved in the Black Lives Matter movement. Increased outreach and support may be needed.

WEBSITE

Erin Saberi quickly updated the BRC members on new changes/revisions to the Blue Ribbon Commission website and acknowledged the work of Jasmine Partida and Molly Nugent who helped with design and content. She asked commissioners to provide input if they see anything that needs editing and to share the website link widely with their networks. Discussion ensued about access to the community survey on the homepage of the website. Commissioners can share the website link - sacramentoblueribboncommission.com - in public outreach for the survey.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

So far, support for the BRC Community Mask Making Project has been great. My Sister's House, WEAVE, A Community for Peace, Opening Doors, and Waking the Village all received masks from the Blue Ribbon Commission support team. My Sister's House has requested additional kid's masks. Erin Saberi thanked Charmen Goehring for delivering masks to each location, and Zima Creason, AAUW, and Women's Wisdom Art for creating a large number of masks. Dr. Ali Lichtenstein shared that she has access to templates for kids masks if anyone is interested in producing them. We are still hoping to create 500 more masks to meet our 2000 mask goal.

III. AD-HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES (6:40PM-7:10PM)

REPORT COMMITTEE UPDATE



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Dr. Blount shared that the report committee met for the first time and developed a draft outline with suggestions and considerations. For Brown Act compliance we may need to publish the report prior to sending it to the County Board of Supervisors for their review, so we will need to factor that into our timeline. We would also like to have a Powerpoint to accompany the report, which would highlight quotes from Executive Directors and Community members, as well as the work the Blue Ribbon Commission, has already done (listening circles, surveys, meetings, resources and data gathering, domestic violence support, community groups, masks, food bank support). We can also point out how much more impactful we would be if we had a permanent official commission.

Dr. Blount also shared that we would like to include several appendices, including a list of women's organizations, direct quotes from surveys, a compiled list of BRC commissioners, etc. It would also be helpful to have a letter of community support, signed by executive directors. The report committee was working off of an October deadline but if we have a September deadline, the goal would be to have a first draft of the report done by September 22, with the final draft submitted to the Board of Supervisors by September 29. In order to fulfill this timeline, we will need all surveys and listening circles to be completed by the end of July/early August so that we can begin data analysis in August.

Next Report Committee meeting: July 15, 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

Action items:

- BRC commissioners will encourage community members to submit responses to the survey by the end of July/early August.
- Jasmine Partida (special assistant) will send an email survey with four questions to all BRC commissioners to reply by July 31st.
- Co-chairs of each committee will send a one-page report summarizing their work for the report (deadline?)

ASSESSING NEEDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Vicki Boyd shared that the committee is working on creating virtual listening circles, some of which are scheduled for July. This committee is aiming for 5-10 people to attend each. Shayne Corriea-Fernandez shared that the committee is working to pull in



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

responses from communities we haven't yet heard from. Many community members are not aware that the Blue Ribbon Commission exists yet, and we need to focus on outreach in those areas. Now that the website is completed, this may be helpful with outreach.

Action items:

- Dr. Tonya Lindsey will share demographic data on survey and listening circle responses to date in order to assist the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Assessing Needs with targeted outreach.

Next Assessing Needs Committee meeting: TBD.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Zima Creason shared that the committee met earlier this week to review the charts. The committee is splitting up in teams to populate the information, and plan to huddle before the next BRC meeting. The goal is to fill in gaps and to identify organizations that serve women and girls (and broader populations) and to be specific with contact information (with some information excluded for privacy, etc). Charmen Goehring mentioned that Erin had suggested holding a handful of meetings/short interviews with executive directors and that they will plan for that as well.

Next Resources Committee Meeting: July 21, 2:00 - 3:00 pm.

COMMISSION MODELS COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Danielle Metzinger shared that the committee has reviewed 19 different commissions. The research has been narrowed down to 10 pages of information. The committee is working on pulling out highlights, some of which will be submitted in our official report. Marian Johnston mentioned that the committee has reviewed commission bylaws and missions, with a special focus on youth involvement/different ways of addressing youth participation. The committee would like to speak to the Youth Ad Hoc Advisory Committee about different models for incorporating youth voices. They will set up a call with Alana and Maya, Co-Chairs of the youth committee.

Next Commission Models Committee Meeting: July 28, 5:00 - 6:00 pm.



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Alana Ramsay shared that she (and other youth members) presented at the County of Sacramento Mental Health Board (MHB) and mentioned the Blue Ribbon Commission. The MHB was very interested in their recommendations based upon the youth listening circle and survey done in partnership with IQ Squad and The Hub Building Healthy Communities. The youth committee is putting together two task forces: one to organize a listening circle and another to conduct a community survey for youth. There are currently 8 youth members serving on this committee.

Next Youth Committee Meeting: July 16, 7:30 - 8:15 pm.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Jasmine Partida shared that we have close to a month's worth of content, but the committee is working on a timeline for posting on our different platforms. Jasmine Partida will share the handles in our next email so all BRC members and the public can begin following each on Instagram and Twitter.

Next Social Media Committee meeting: August 3, 4:00 - 5:00 pm.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT & REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES (7:10PM-7:15PM)

Tonya Lindsey's name spelling was corrected. Bernice Bass de Martinez then approved the minutes, which were seconded by Emily Bender. Jasmine Partida completed a roll call of BRC members and the motion passed. There were no public comments.

V. THE WORK OF MY SISTER'S HOUSE: NILDA VALMORES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (7:15PM-7:50PM)

Nilda Valmores gave a presentation on the work of My Sister's House (MSH)
[Link to Nilda Valmores's presentation on My Sister's House:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-VOj_uhDi1pIRAz2aj_5jHjollSxLDeo/view?usp=sharing]

Nilda shared information about the history of My Sister's House, which was founded 19 years ago. After a number of high-profile deaths involving Asian women in Sacramento,



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

community leaders came together to see what could be done and to prevent the cycle of violence from continuing. MSH focuses on the needs of API women, but their doors are open to everyone. MSH focuses on serving those with language and cultural barriers. Programs include a continuum of services, residential and transitional housing programs, legal services, counseling services, 24/7 support line, immigration assistance, job referrals, and job training through My Sister's Cafe. MSH hosts a large human trafficking conference on an annual basis. Their "Women to Work" program is important in helping clients become financially independent. MSH focuses on eviction avoidance and utility assistance. Support groups are led by survivors.

MSH has seen a spike in intense domestic violence calls during COVID-19, and Nilda Valmores suggested that there may be an additional increase as the community heads back to work.

My Sister's Cafe has moved into a new office space in the federal building downtown Sacramento, that will be opened to the public after the COVID-19 crisis has abated. The My Sister's Cafe restaurant is temporarily closed.

MSH will be hosting a virtual gala in August.

Questions/Answers:

Leslie Levitas asked if there has been an uptick in reports of sex trafficking. Nilda Valmores responded by saying that initially during the COVID-19 crisis it seemed that trafficking had gone down, but some are reporting that trafficking incidents have increased in recent weeks. Significant data has not been released as of yet, so it's hard to say at this point. Nilda Valmores shared that in Asian communities, trafficking often presents behind massage parlor doors or as domestic servitude; it has been particularly hard to navigate supporting these survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vicki Boyd asked about options for clients once they exit MSH programs. Nilda Valmores shared that clients come to MSH at different stages (some needing legal assistance, some have low English proficiency, some need housing, etc), but the main goal is to help each client become financially stable and to recognize signs of domestic violence and sexual assault so they don't feel trapped again. MSH wants clients to feel



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

like they have a family that supports them, even if the healing process takes a while. Their 20th-anniversary plan is to make sure that all clients have an opportunity to build their confidence and learn job skills.

Erin Saberi asked how MSH thinks a women's commission could support the DV community in Sacramento. Nilda Valmores responded by saying the BRC has already been tremendously successful in helping with masks and coordinating support on an individual basis for conversations at City Hall. She expressed gratitude for the support already given. It is also helpful for the BRC (and potential permanent commission) to serve as a vast network of diverse constituents, so we can help with outreach to different communities that aren't traditionally connected to MSH or other domestic violence organizations. Nilda Valmores included that she thinks outreach is also most effective when it's personal.

Shayne Corriea-Fernandez asked if children are allowed to accompany their parents in MSH residential programs. Valmores shared that children are welcome, but they must always assess bed capacity/availability before bringing families into the shelter.

Molly Nugent asked about COVID-19 measures in the MSH shelters. Nilda Valmores shared that MSH has been accepting new clients and using sanitary measures/taking temperatures to keep the virus out of the residential programs, which has been successful so far. Valmores emphasized that staff are dealing with addressing both the threat of the virus itself, as well as the very valid emotional fear/response to COVID-19.

Leslie Levitas asked about how MSH works with clients exiting the criminal justice system. Nilda Valmores shared that MSH staff assess safety for all incoming and current clients, and refer out/redirect as necessary to make sure each client is receiving the most trauma-informed/culturally appropriate services.

Vicki Boyd asked about legislative priorities for MSH. Nilda Valmores replied saying that, although MSH doesn't explicitly work on legislation, they sometimes support certain policies and pay attention to state funding streams, etc.



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:50PM-8:00PM)

Erin Saberi shared that she is working on drafting a letter of support from the community. She will need help from BRC members in seeking signatories.

Erin Saberi also raised the idea of a large high-profile virtual forum which was calendared pre-COVID-19 for this August. The forum would be a gathering of everyone in the county working to support women and girls in different areas to discuss what we know/what we don't know, and why we need a women's commission. The original idea was to have several panels and a "World Cafe" participatory activity with participants and the public. We will be putting together an organizing call for anyone interested in helping to re-think the forum for a virtual COVID-19 context. Shayne Correia-Fernandez, Leslie Levitas, and Dina Howard shared that they were interested in helping.

Vicki Boyd shared that she was interested in information about addressing the digital divide in communities re: education and at-home schooling.

Jasmine Partida shared information about a virtual forum she is hosting this month called "When Women Speak: Find Your Voice. Find Your Power," on July 25th.



For more information, visit <https://hopin.to/events/whenwomenspeak>.



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Molly Nugent shared that the United State of Women is hosting a 3-day virtual summit/event for young women called “United State of Young Women” on **July 22-25**. For more information and to register, visit:

<https://www.theunitedstateofwomen.org/youth/?fbclid=IwAR1btPp9yDgpU30pcnW4WoeZid4UeRjwBLocrxQ30KYbqJbCKk--coUJIA0>



Administrative Action Items:

- Jasmine will email questions for commissioners to answer for social media and report purposes. She will also email the website link and the social media handles.
- Erin will send Debbie Richardson Brister information to join the Ad Hoc Committee on Resources.
- The next Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs zoom meeting will be July 16, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm.

The Next BRC Meeting will be: August 11, 2020, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

VII. ADJOURN (8PM)

Submitted by Molly Nugent.