

JUNE 28, 2021 MEETING MINUTES 4:30 PM



Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women

Commissioners Meeting called to order at 4:31 PM

Jaynelle Pemberton, CHAIR - **Excused**
Patricia DeWitt, Commissioner
Ashlie Empleo, Commissioner
Shawna Grant, Commissioner
Demika Jackson, Commissioner
Tammy D. Taylor, Commissioner
Sheila Spivey, UNF – Ex-officio Member
Sytisha Claycomb, Women's Ctr – Ex-officio Member

Staff

Nicole Spradley – MCSW Staff Support

Guest Attendees

Deloris Quaranta, Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Inc.

Approval of Minutes

May 24, 2021 minutes were reviewed, amended and approved.

- Amendment made by Commissioner Jackson to include the Courageous Conversations update in the Advocacy and Education Committee report.
Motion to approve: Commissioner Pat DeWitt
Motion seconded: Commissioner Sytisha Claycomb

Public Comments

No public comments.

Chair Report

Commissioner Grant served as Chair in Commissioner Pemberton's absence. A report was not provided.

Guest Speaker

Deloris Quaranta, President, provided a brief history and overview of the services provided by the Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Inc. She founded the organization in 2012 to address the growing needs of veteran women. Some of the programs offered include Her Total Wellness (6 week program), Her Biz Program (6 month program on how to start a business), Her Healthy Life (6 month program) and Her Space emergency shelter that just opened on June 1st. The organization also has a food pantry and clothing closet in Arlington.

Commissioner Jackson asked whether donations were accepted at the food pantry and clothing closet.

Ms. Quaranta explained that donated items were put on hold due to COVID-19.

Commissioner DeWitt inquired about advocacy work in Florida.

Ms. Quaranta explained that advocacy was limited, but that they were finally able to hire a full time coordinator

that starts July 1st. There is a Women's Veteran's Task Force in Washington D.C. that she has worked closely with. She mentioned the Deborah Sampson Act passed recently which allows survivors of military sexual assault to seek counseling outside of the military.

Commissioner Claycomb mentioned that the Women's Center is a great resource.

Ms. Quaranta was familiar with the staff and mentioned that many women want to talk to other veterans.

Committee Reports

- **Governance** – The Governance Committee did not meet.
- **Advocacy and Education** – Commissioner Jackson reported that the Committee did not meet due to miscommunications. The Courageous Conversations event will be held in August.
- **Communications** – Commissioner Grant met with Commissioner Empleo, Commissioner Claycomb had technical difficulties and was unable to log in using the Zoom link provided. Commissioner Empleo is working on updating the directory and has received 16 responses so far through the google form link. She has solicited help from an FSCJ student to assist with updating the directory.

Commissioner Grant asked the rest of the Commission to assist with the directory. Her goal is to post the directory on social media bi-weekly. She wants to plan an event and update the website to include information about each Commissioner. She will attend the next Advocacy and Education Committee meeting so that she can get the information pertaining to the upcoming Courageous Conversations event to post on social media. She asked Commissioners to share information with colleagues on social media and suggested adding a video link of the presentations on the website.

Nicole Spradley will inquire about adding video links to the website.

Commissioner Grant has been posting meeting information and how to join the Commission on the social media page, but questioned how to get more women involved. A brief discussion was had, but this will be addressed during a Committee meeting or during the Board Retreat.

- **Events** – Commissioner reported that the Committee did not meet due to miscommunications.

New Business

None

Unfinished Business

The Board Retreat has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 7th. The Commission would like to plan out the entire year, discuss having a budget; Robert's Rules and having a photographer attend to take headshots.

Slate of Officers

The Slate of Officers was reviewed and approved.

Motion to approve: Commissioner Shawna Grant

Motion seconded: Commissioner Tammy Taylor

Meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM

CERTIFICATION

RECORDED AND TRANSCRIBED BY:

Signature on File
Nicole Spradley
MCSW Staff Support

SUBMITTED BY:

Signature on File
Barbara Florio
MCSW Board Liaison

APPROVED BY:

Signature on File
Ashlie Empleo, Secretary

COPY TO: Filed for public access