**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL**

**ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)**

July 14, 2022

The **Arlington CSW** convened its meeting at **7:05 pm** on Thursday, July 14, 2022.

**PRESENT**  Julia Tanner

Jeanine Finch

Arbora Johnson

Rachel Johnson

Marguerete Luter

Kayli Nichols

Xenia Ruiz

Jordan Stevenson

Susan Strauss

**ABSENT** Azadeh Meshkaty

Caroline Romano

Sasha Alegbeleye

**STAFF** Courtney Palmer Sales, Staff Coordinator

**EXTERNAL** Adrienne Fine, Arlington County Attorney

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

*Presentation on Arlington County FOIA Compliance*

Adrienne Fine gave a presentation on the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, which included information as to what does and does not constitute a meeting, criteria in which public meetings must be announced and held, information subject to FOIA, and described the county’s policy in effect in September which allows for 25% of meetings to be held in a completely virtual manner as the emergency status in Arlington county is set to expire.

Commissioner Luter asked about the ban on commissioners’ participation, if they did not meet all requirements to participate virtually. Attorney Fine responded that while voting is not allowed, a commissioner should be able to participate during the public comment section as any other citizen who does not have voting capacity.

The presentation also included information as to when emails constitute meetings and the definition of a public record. Further, attorney Fine outlined options on responses to a FOIA request as well as demonstrable list of exemptions to FOIA requests.

**New Business**

*Presentation on Abortion Rights Resolution*

Currently, no clinics in Arlington offer abortion services. Chair Tanner presented the recently passed Alexandria resolution and asked whether the CSW desired to present it to the Arlington County Board (Board). Prior to the discussion among the CSW, Tanner summarized relevant abortion laws in VA. Stevenson presented additional language to consider: “We ask the City Manager consider budgetary proposals for the FY 2024 budget to ensure accessibility of reproductive health services, safe abortion services, accessible maternal and child health services for low-income Arlington residents, including, but not limited to, proposals for these services to be provisioned via Arlington County Public Health Clinics.” The CSW took the following votes.

1. Vote: Whether to urge the county to adopt a resolution on abortion rights?
   1. Ayes: Unanimous
2. Vote: Whether to include language that Jordan suggested?
   1. Ayes: Unanimous
3. Vote: Whether CSW adopt something like the Alexandria resolution?
   1. Ayes: Unanimous

[Links shared](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacodefull/title18.2/chapter4/article9/)

as the CSW also decided to reconsider additional requests to the board during the next CSW meeting. Items discussed included: asking the board to oppose 15-week ban, police deprioritization of abortion criminalization, urging the county board to look for additional funding, including federal funds, to assist Arlington women with accessibility of abortion services, and updating the Arlington website to outline abortion resources for residents nearby.

**Upcoming Events and Announcements**

* Arlington County Project PEACE is hosting a workshop for The Askable Adult Campaign. The registration link was [**HERE**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/becoming-more-askable-two-part-workshop-registration-365967427427).
* State Commission on Human Trafficking announced
* Hospital and clinics must now post the human trafficking hotline

**Meetings**

* CSW will not convene a meeting in August.
* The September meeting will be hybrid.

**Electronics meeting Policy:**

Chair Tanner summarized the County’s suggested draft of the electronic meeting policy for adoption and outlined the logistics for hybrid meetings.

1. Vote: Whether to adopt the county’s suggested draft of the electronic meetings policy:
   1. Ayes: Unanimous

[Links shared](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title2.2/chapter37/section2.2-3708.2/)

**County Fair**

Commissioner A. Johnson presented on the CSW Booth for the Arlington County Fair August 19-21. Commissioners should continue signing up for shifts. Commissioner Johnson has submitted a draft of the event to the County. CSW will engage public as to what issues they believe are most important to improve the quality of life for women and girls in Arlington County. The booth will allow residents to vote between five key areas, fill a form as to what action the CSW should take to address their selected area, share their stories via flipchart, and post pictures with a hashtag. Commissioner Nichols sought clarification on responsibility and protocol as related to Covid-19 and sanitation. The County to direct Covid-19 guidance and is expected to provide hand sanitizer.

**Joint Meeting with AAUW American Association of University Women**

Chair Tanner presented the opportunity to host a joint meeting with the AAUW to discuss economic issues facing Arlington women. There was consensus among Commissioners in interest in a joining meeting. Commissioner Tanner will follow up with AAUW for more information. Commissioner Luter proposed an agenda to outline discussion or instead invite AAUW to be a guest speaker. The joint meeting may be held in November and CSW would host.

**Projects**

Chair Tanner presented two task forces for commissioners to be a part of to develop potential proposals for the CSW: a financial literacy event and revenge porn, and Arlington and Virginia’s related policies and laws. She suggested 3-month window for each task force to do an exploration into the topics. She will reach out to other commissioners regarding interest in both task forces. She reminded CSW of public meeting requirements.

Financial literacy/skills training: Commissioners voted to have the task force decide on the financial literacy event’s potential audience.

1. Vote: Discuss audience for financial task force now or leave to task force?
   1. Ayes: 3 Ruiz, Luter, Strauss
   2. Task force interest: Strauss and Nichols

Revenge porn:

* 1. Task force Interest: R. Johnson, Strauss, Stevenson
     1. Commissioner Stevenson to lead

[Link shared](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vhhSdnrSHdcvQ49YQYoCadbScbouvgCMzMCCf4jZGwQ/edit)

**Other**

* Commissioner R. Johnson will follow up regarding legislature package as to when the board needs CSW feedback, if there is an additional opportunity in 2022.

Meeting adjourned at **8:57pm**.