



COUNTY OF HAWAII
FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

25 Aupuni Street, Room 217 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252
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Friday, January 24, 2003
10:00 AM
The Island of Hawaii YMCA
65-1206 Mamalahoa Hwy., Waimea

MINUTES

PRESENT: Patti Barry, Chair, Dorothee Auldridge, Linda Halsted, Karen Kudlo, Lee Lord, Emily Naeole, Linda Slutter, Kelly Soo, Jacqueline Watanabe, Karen Wolfe

STAFF: Lincoln Ashida, Corporation Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson P. Barry called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

New commissioner K. Soo was welcomed into the commission and shared background information. She works for Turning Point for Families, currently in the CRCRP Project, which is the coordinated Rural Community Outreach. She also works for Women's Advocacy, helping women and children so they don't fall through the cracks of services, and is working on report writing. She is honored to be a member and is very interested and involved in Kona, where she resides.

MINUTES

Minutes from the December 16, 2002 meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

L. Lord followed up on two questions from the last meeting, and reported that 1) mileage budget would run out before June 30, but monies could be taken from other line items, and 2) the budget was not prorated, the total amount for the fiscal year was given to the commission starting in November. After the start of the new fiscal year, the commission will start with the new budget of the same amount.

P. Barry asked how to approach a change in the budget. L. Lord thought that would have to be done by asking the Mayor for a larger budget.

K. Kudlo asked if money that isn't used goes into the next year's budget. L. Lord said that two years ago money that wasn't used by the end of the fiscal year lapsed into a general fund, and did not go into the commission's next year's fund. Commission starts out fresh on July 1 with the total for that year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Sunshine Law

P. Barry reported that in the "Outline for Family Violence Advisory Commission" that was given to all members by Lincoln Ashida, it is her understanding that Chapter 92, (Meetings) could also apply to the Standing Committees as advised in Exhibit 1. She also read through Section 92-2.5 to get a better understanding on the Sunshine Law as it pertains to discussions between members.

P. Barry also expressed the importance of having a DVIAT committee chair so that information from DVIAT can be brought back to this commission to avoid duplication of effort. One of the projects that DVIAT is involved in is one of the projects that FVAC had talked about, the transitional housing, and she felt FVAC could combine or partner with DVIAT.

L. Ashida recommended that there be two opportunities for public statement on the Agenda, one at the beginning to provide input that may influence the commissioner's decision-making, and another towards the end of the meeting to give the public an opportunity to respond. P. Barry said that she would communicate this information to Char.

L. Ashida reported on discussion with P. Barry regarding the by-laws and whether this was subject to Rule 91. "For members of the commission, because I'm about to discuss with you your responsibilities, liabilities, and duties, you have a right if you choose, to move to go into Executive Session right now to discuss this matter privately with me. Our communication will be privileged with the attorney/client privilege. That's your choice. If someone makes a motion to do that we can do that now. I'm obliged under the rules of professional responsibility to give you that option. If you just want to openly discuss it now, that's your choice. I just caution you that there may be a situation where I advise you to take a certain course of action, you may choose to not follow my advice, which is your prerogative and right, but you need to be advised that that may expose you to potential liability. So I'll leave it up to you."

K. WOLFE made a motion to go into Executive Session.

L. ASHIDA: "And just for the record, I believe that you're making that motion under Section 92-5, Subsection A, Subsection 4, which is 'To consult with your attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities'. And for the record, you need at least 2/3 votes, which is 6 votes of this commission.

P. Barry called for a second to the motion made by K. Wolfe. L. Slutter seconded the motion.

L. Lord asked if the recorder stays on during Executive Session. L. Ashida answered that Executive Session needs to be recorded, but the minutes are not made public.

Motion was passed unanimously.

COMMISSION WENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

After returning from Executive Session, L. Ashida explained to the commission that going into Executive Session cultivates frank and open discussion, and that commissioners should be aware that there is no guarantee that the tape of the session will be private forever. There is a provision in the Sunshine Law that says once the purpose of Executive Session ceases, it may become public.

Motion was made to concur with L.. Ashida's recommendation regarding rulemaking by E. Naeole and seconded by L. Slutter. Motion was passed unanimously.

L. Ashida will work with Char to work on the public hearing.

Discussion on verbatim vs. summary minutes.

Motion was made by L. Slutter to have minutes done in summary form, and seconded by L. Halsted. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Standing Committees

D. Auldridge moved that current Exhibit 1 (Standing Committees) be deleted from By-Laws/Rules. E. Naeole seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

P. Barry said that K. Kudlo asked to be chair of Law and Policy Reform Committee. K. Wolfe said she would like to be co-chair of that committee and chair of Finance Committee. D. Auldridge asked if a formal committee needed to be formed, and if so, does group need to discuss definition or make a motion to adopt current definition as to what committee's scope of work would be.

P. Barry said that she understood it was up to the Chair to establish a committee, with the definitions self explanatory in the Exhibit, and that the definitions of the committees would stand, even though they were deleted from the Rules.

L. Lord volunteered to co-chair the Finance Committee.

Discussion on writing grants.

Public Relations/Education – P. Barry talked about project to increase public awareness through various media. Paystubs available immediately. Asked for volunteer to work on Ad Hoc Public Relations Committee, to contact and work with county to use paystubs and newsletter and develop public awareness on domestic violence issues.

D. Auldridge suggested that instead of calling various projects committees, they be called activities, and that commission members willing to take on an activity be able to start immediately.

K. Kudlo clarified that committees (Exhibit 1) were not deleted, they were just removed from the Rules.

Two activities were established: Law and Policy Reform and Finance Committee.

K. Wolfe volunteered to chair the Paystub Project, P. Barry volunteered to help, and E. Naeole volunteered to co-chair.

C. DV 101

Training. D. Auldrige suggested that even though all commissioners have had some type of training individually, it was important to still have some type of training together as a group. P. Barry expressed interest in training for government officials.

D. Auldrige made a motion that the commission participate in a DV 101 training not to exceed 4 hours, with a curriculum agreed upon prior to the training. K. Kudlo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed on who would do the training, curriculum, date, etc. D. Auldrige asked if training would be a "training" or "meeting". L. Ashida said that trainings he did in the past were taken out of "Sunshine" because of the content (no business discussed, no decisions made). He felt the safest thing for this commission was to do it as a meeting, and open it to the public.

The 4-hour training will be called "Commission Orientation". Motion was made and seconded to have the training on the April 25, 2003 meeting date, at the Ocean View Community Center, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This meeting will have one item on the Agenda, which will be the DV 101 Training. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Needs and Concerns

P. Barry reported on closure of Casey Family Program. L. Lord reported on closure of Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center in Pahoehoe. Discussion on what will happen to children who are serviced by these programs.

K. Wolfe reported on Animal Rescue Coalition of Hawaii, and the possibility of inviting the owner, Mary Walker, to a commission meeting.

L. Lord said that there would not be any children without case managers or foster homes or adoptive homes. If programs close, any children already in the foster home system would have their cases transferred to the DHS, CPS case manager. P. Barry reported on the lack of an agency to take care of new cases coming in.

Verizon has cell phone program, phones can be turned in to them.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Debra Shibazz commented on decision by commission to train themselves. She also reported that every county worker went through training on "Violence in the Workplace" a few years ago. Gabriella Cabanas, of Civil Service is the contact person in the county for information on this training.

Marty Niche congratulated the commission on their efforts. Suggested that the DV 101 training be kept simple and basic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. Lord received information from the Battered Women's Justice Project (national country-wide project supported by the Office on Violence Against Women, U. S. Dept. of Justice), regarding resources/services for Victims of Officer-involved Domestic Crimes. This is for battered women whose batterer is a police officer or in law enforcement. National number is 1-800-903-0111, ext. 1. The person answering will Dianne or relief staff. Immediate crisis assistance is available 24 hours. Commission suggested possibility of putting this information on county paystubs.

February 19, 2003, DVIAT (both east and west) will be meeting in Ocean View at Bougainvillea Bed and Breakfast at 10:00. Lunch is included, (donations accepted).

Discussion on getting politicians involved/educated about DVIAT.

Next meeting will be on February 28, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in Hilo at the County Building.

L. Ashida suggested that commission members wishing to discuss certain business at a meeting should contact either the Chair or Char to have it agendaized, because the Sunshine Law doesn't allow discussion on matters which are not on the agenda. Also, an agenda has to state with sufficient specificity to advise the public substantially the type of business that will be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Charmaine Shigemura