

# Maryland Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 18, 2024  
5 p.m.

Virtual

## Commissioners Attending:

Tawanda A. Bailey, Chair  
Pier Blake  
Jonathon Carrington  
Gloria Dent  
Essita Duncan  
Judith Emmel  
Kathryn Fiddler  
Maggi Gaines  
Linda Han  
Lauren M. Lambert  
Patricia McHugh Lambert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Christine Lee  
Maxine Griffin Somerville, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Evelyne S. Steward  
LaShaune Stitt  
Lenita Walker  
Monica Watkins  
Tamara Wilson

## Commissioners Absent:

Brenda J. McChriston  
Sarah Klein

## Guests Attending:

Angelique Salizan, Special Assistant to the Secretary of DHS  
Jeremy Browning, Executive Director, MD Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

## Staff Attending:

Tammy Wise, Management Associate

### I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda and Minutes..... Chair Bailey

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bailey who welcomed the commissioners in attendance. Once a quorum was established, she called for approval of today's agenda. Commissioner Walker moved approval of the agenda and First Vice Chair Somerville seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Chair Bailey called for approval of the minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Walker moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Blake seconded, and it passed unanimously. Chair Bailey acknowledged the attendance of Angelique Salizan from Secretary Lopez's office.

### II. Executive Committee Report.....Chair Bailey

#### A. Guest Speaker: Jeremy Browning, MD Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

#### B. Women's Bureau Regional Meeting.....Maxine Somerville

The meeting was held in late February and included 17 cities, counties, or states. Everyone provided updates in their respective areas. Included on the call from Maryland was Howard County, Harford County, Baltimore County and Prince George's County. Kentucky and other regional areas not local to Maryland were in attendance as well. Each jurisdiction shared

initiatives that they are working on including paid family leave and revitalizing public policy committees. Many included conversations on how to address the needs of younger women and how to get them interested in their Commission. There was additional discussion about programming and projects. The facilitator made herself and her team available for conversations about upcoming plans and how everyone can collaborate across states.

**C. Carroll County League of Women Voters.....Patricia M. Lambert**

The Carroll County League of Women Voters are committed to increasing voter registration. Commissioner P. Lambert encourages anyone who receives an invite to speak to these types of groups to accept the offer, because at this time, the MCW is not well known in the rural areas. To assist MCW commissioners, Commissioner P. Lambert created a PowerPoint presentation that can be used across the board when briefing these organizations.

**D. Commission For Women Roundtable Meeting**

Chair Bailey briefed the Commission on the background of the annual meeting that has been held in the Spring. This meeting is a state-wide meeting for local Commissions for Women, giving them the opportunity to discuss the initiatives and programs they have implemented over the past year and what they plan to do in the upcoming year. Plans are currently underway for this year's Roundtable Meeting.

**E. Annual Planning Meeting**

The Annual Planning Meeting is normally held in June, but due to the number of commissioners' terms expiring and new commissioners being appointed the Executive Committee decided it should be held in July to accommodate these changes. At this time, the third Thursday in July has been earmarked for this meeting. The meeting typically begins at 3:00pm and ends by 7:00pm to allow for the forming of committees, planning for the upcoming year, reviewing our mission and mandate, and fellowship. A location has not been determined.

**F. Officer Election Process**

The Elections Process Memo was sent out to all commissioners and the election of all three officers will be held in June, which happens every two years, in even number years, for a two-year term. Officers will take office immediately after the votes have been tallied. Please send all nomination forms to Management Associate Wise by May 16, 2024. The commissioners were ensured that there would be time to question the candidates to get a better understanding of their leadership styles and plans.

**G. Hall of Fame and Maryland Young Women Leaders Award Ceremony**

Chair Bailey expressed that the ceremony was an amazing program. She thanked Commissioners Blake, Walker, and Dent for planning a wonderful event.

**H. Top 100 Women**

Chair Bailey congratulated Commissioner Fiddler for being inducted into The Daily Record's 2024 Top 100 Women. Commissioner Fiddler encouraged more MCW members to get involved with the Top 100 Women because of all of the accomplishments and work they do on the Commission and in their daily lives.

**I. Appointments**

There was one individual nominated by the Governor in the Green Bag this legislative session. Her name is Nykidra Robinson and she is from Baltimore City. She has been confirmed by the Senate and her term will begin on July 1.

**J. Letter to Support the Name Change of the Firemen's Association**

In 2023, a senator asked that the Maryland Firemen's Association be renamed to Maryland Firefighter's Association to be more inclusive of women. In support of the request, the MCW sent a letter to the then President of the Association. The vote did not pass. It was recently brought to Chair Bailey's attention that the request will be brought up again this year at the June

meeting, so she sent a letter to support this change again to highlight that the change would recognize women in this field and their contributions.

**III. Committee Reports**

**A. Advocacy, Collaboration and Engagement (ACE) Committee.....Stitt**

The ACE Committee has been tasked with planning the Roundtable Meeting. Currently, the goal is to increase the numbers of local Commissions for Women around the state. The meeting will be held on May 30 from 5:00 – 7:30pm, virtually. The plan is to have breakout sessions, but topics have not been finalized. The theme is Reseating the Table. Save the Dates have been sent to all existing Commissions for Women state-wide. There is a proposed agenda for the evening, but Commissioner Stitt is hopeful that all commissioners would give their input. Commissioner Stitt and Steward showed a PowerPoint presentation outlining the plans and offering potential designs for flyers and breakout session topics. Commissioner Stitt also suggested that we send an invitation to the counties that do not have a current CFW to engage them and hopefully encourage the creation of one.

**B. Policy and Legislation (PAL) Committee.....Duncan**

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women will be holding its annual wrap-up session on May 7. The Maryland General Assembly’s legislative session closed on April 8. Of the seven bills that the MCW monitored, four passed, but have not been signed by the Governor, one was not introduced and two did not pass.

**C. ARC Committee..... Blake  
HOF and MYWLA Ceremony**

Commissioner Blake thanked everyone who helped with the planning of the event. There was a follow-up meeting held to highlight best practices and note areas that can be improved. All of the ten honorees attended and were very excited about the program. Expenses came in under budget with less than 100 guests in attendance. Commissioner Blake thanked Commissioner Dent for purchasing the flowers for the honorees. She noted that the time for the event was increased by an hour giving the guests and commissioners time to take pictures and partake in the wonderful finger foods prepared by the Government House’s staff. Commissioners Steward and Walker thanked Commissioner Blake for planning a successful ceremony.

**IV. Liaison Reports**

**A. The Foundation for the Maryland Commission for Women (TFMCW).....Steward**

The Foundation President stepped down and the members have not had a recent meeting. They are trying to firm up logistics for a meeting and connecting with the incoming MCW Executive Director.

**B. Maryland Women’s Heritage Center..... Chair Bailey**

The Heritage Center requested the biographies for the Hall of Fame honorees to be placed on their panels to be displayed at the Notre Dame of Maryland University. They are currently experiencing some turnover and are looking for individuals to join their board. They welcome off-going commissioners to apply.

**C. Women Moving Forward Conference.....L. Lambert**

The first meeting will be held on April 23, and Commissioner L. Lambert will give a report at the next commission meeting.

**D. Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholders Group.....Fiddler**

Currently the group has had trouble identifying a time and date for a meeting but has a plan to hold a meeting in the beginning of May.

**E. UMD Safe Center..... First Vice Chair Somerville**

No report.

**F. Maryland Semiquincentennial (MD 250) Commission.....Emmel**

The MD 250 Commission is looking to capitalize on partnering with various organization on events that are already planned around the state. They would definitely like to partner with the MCW on the next two Hall of Fame and Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards ceremonies. The MD 250 Commission is comprised of four committees: Civics, History, Service Working Group, and Communications. The Chair and Executive Director assign individuals to each committee and Commissioner Emmel has been assigned to the Civics Committee. They recently had a meeting where 15 recommendations were suggested by the various committees. She encourages all MCW members to sign up for their newsletter to stay informed. The website is <https://mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/>.

**G. National Association of Commissions for Women..... Somerville**

The NACW is planning a convention from July 24-28 in Boston. Registration information to come.

**H. Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs.....Carrington**

No report.

**V. Unfinished Business**

No report.

**VI. New Business**

No new business.

**VII. Staff Report .....Bailey**

**A. Plans for the new Executive Director**

Ariana Kelly will start her position on May 6. Chair Bailey asked that everyone support her as she comes on board. Commissioner P. Lambert thanked Management Associate Wise for providing support to the commission in absence of an Executive Director.

**VIII. Announcements**

**A. May Executive Committee Meeting:** Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. Virtual

**B. Commission Meeting – Thursday, May 16 2024 5:00 p.m. (Virtual)**

**IX. Adjournment**

No further business being brought before the Commission, Chair Bailey thanked the Commissioners for all their work. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

**Drafted By:** Tammy Wise, Management Associate

**Submitted:** May 10, 2024

**Approved:** May 16, 2024