

# Virginia Council on Women

## Minutes

August 9, 2018 Meeting

Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E. Broad Street, East Reading Room, Richmond, VA 23219

Members Present: Carol Rick Gibbons (Chair); Katy Sawyer (Vice-Chair); Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa (Secretary); Kelly Thomasson (Secretary of the Commonwealth; Ex-Officio Council Member); Amy Bridge; Margie del Castillo; Caryn Foster Durham; Diana Gates; Aisha Johnson; Susan Johnston Rowland; Noor Khalidi; Chrystal Neal; Ashley Reynolds Marshall; Holly Seibold; Katie Tyson.

Staff Present: Traci DeShazor, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth; Kathy Spangler, Executive Director, American Evolution – Virginia to America: 1619-2019; Michaela Mizrahi, Student Intern.

### Call to Order

Chair Carol Rick Gibbons called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

### Welcome and Introductions

Carol Rick Gibbons welcomed everyone in attendance. Attendees introduced themselves, stating their name, professional role, date of appointment, Council role(s), and the geographic area of the Commonwealth they represent.

### Agenda, Minutes, and Membership Directory

The agenda for the August 9 meeting was adopted unanimously on a motion by Susan Johnston Rowland, seconded by Katy Sawyer. The minutes of the April 18 meeting were adopted unanimously [with the corrections to the following names: Ashley Marshall's name which incorrectly read "Ashley Reynolds Markham" and Katy Sawyer's name which incorrectly read "Katie Sawyer" in two places], on a motion by Susan Johnston Rowland, seconded by Katy Sawyer.

Council members received the 2018-2019 Virginia Council on Women Membership Directory. Carol Rick Gibbons asked everyone to review it and provide staff with corrections.

### Election of Officers

Carol Rick Gibbons informed Council members that the Council had two vacant leadership positions: Vice Chair and Secretary.

Katy Sawyer was unanimously approved as Vice Chair on a motion by Amy Bridge, seconded by Susan Johnston Rowland.

Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa was unanimously approved as Secretary on a motion by Katy Sawyer, seconded by Katie Tyson.

### Member Orientation

- Council on Women Charge & Responsibilities: Carol Rick Gibbons reviewed the handout Council members received that outlined the Virginia Council on Women charge, subcommittee descriptions, and leadership roles and responsibilities. Carol asked if new members had any questions, and Noor Khalidi inquired about the Council's key accomplishments to date. Carol responded that the Council's work is achieved through the subcommittees, which was the next agenda item.

- Overview of Council Subcommittees
  - Women’s Healthcare Initiative: Katy Sawyer, Women’s Healthcare Initiative Co-Chair, reported the following: Past subcommittee accomplishments included transitional housing shelter efforts, an annual proclamation signing by the governor to commemorate April as Women’s and Girls Wellness Month in the Commonwealth, and submitting letters to the General Assembly on legislation impacting women’s health. Last year, in addition to the proclamation signing by Governor Northam, the subcommittee partnered with the Math Science Innovation Center (MSiC) for an afternoon of hands-on, interactive wellness-focused learning labs. The subcommittee also partnered with First Lady Northam as she led girls in a yoga session. Katy asked Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa, Women’s Healthcare Initiative Co-Chair, if there were any additions. Ikeita offered that this year, the subcommittee is seeking an expanded charge from Governor Northam that incorporates his attention to women and girls’ wellness.
  - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Essay Contest: Carol Rick Gibbons reported the following: Founded in 2012, the Council’s intention was to award a \$5,000 scholarship, provided through the fundraising efforts of the Council, to a young woman who planned to pursue a career in the STEM field. Over the years, the Council has dramatically grown the initiative. 2018 marked the 7<sup>th</sup> annual STEM Essay Contest. Nearly 500 young women applied for STEM scholarships, and the Council raised \$50,000 and was thus able to award 5 students \$10,000 each. The scholarship award reception is held each spring at the governor’s mansion and provides an opportunity for students and their loved ones to interact with the Governor, First Lady, and Council members.
  - Summit on Women: Carol Rick Gibbons reported the following: The first Governor’s Summit on Women was held in Richmond in 2017. Attendance was strong with nearly 300 participants, and the event was a success. The Summit was focused on getting a seat at the table and keeping a seat at the table. A Women in Leadership Summit was scheduled for March 2018, but the Council reassessed and decided to instead hold mini summits outside of Richmond.
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Video: Kelly Thomasson said that the Council is a public body and must comply with the Commonwealth’s FOIA laws. All Council business will be archived with the Library of Virginia. She advised Council members that everything the Council does is public information and that meetings must be posted at least 3 days in advance. Council members viewed an 8-minute FOIA video (not made for all Virginia boards but applicable to all Virginia boards). Carol Rick Gibbons reminded Council members to bcc: when sending email messages and avoid the “reply all” function since any gathering of 3 or more board members to meet and discuss board business constitutes an illegal/unlawful meeting. Carol also reminded Council members to cc: Traci DeShazor on emails in order to comply with the records requirement. The group had a brief discussion around whether meetings are allowed via technology, and Kelly advised that while e-meetings are technically allowed, in-person meetings are more feasible since a quorum must be physically assembled in one location if the other location is remote.

## Old Business

Carol Rick Gibbons stated that Council members heard subcommittee overviews and were about to hear subcommittee updates. Carol announced that a sign-up sheet would be circulated for Council members to indicate their interest in joining a subcommittee for 2018-2019.

- Report and Update from Women’s Healthcare Initiative Subcommittee: Katy Sawyer reported the following: The subcommittee met right before the full Council meeting. The subcommittee is interested in having its

2014 charge updated beyond women's health to women and girls' health and wellness in line with Governor Northam's policy priorities. The subcommittee is also eager to partner with the Administration on healthcare legislation, both to educate the public on what occurred in 2018 and to help with 2019 as appropriate. The subcommittee will work with staff on the event possibilities and logistics around April 2019 Women and Girls Wellness Month to ensure that it meets the Governor's and First Lady's needs. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and National Bullying Prevention Month, and the subcommittee will partner with Michaela Mizrahi in publicizing Commonwealth events. The subcommittee will also assess if Governor Northam is interested in partnering in "mini med school with kids talk" programming in the summer of 2019 as a follow up to the medical school rounds that he is currently making.

- Report and Update from STEM Subcommittee: Carol Rick Gibbons reported the following: Council members are especially needed on the STEM subcommittee to raise money based on their relationships. It was co-chaired by Amy Eckert who cycled off the Council and Carol, who is now the Council Chair. There is an opportunity to try to come up with a scholarship needs-based component, go beyond the scholarship itself in terms of staying connected to the young women, mentorships, etc. There is a huge cadre of judges, and it is easy to recruit them because judging is very rewarding. Council members are encouraged to serve as judges and help fundraise, even if they are not on the STEM subcommittee. Subcommittee members will receive lists and resources of past sponsors, templates, etc.
- Report and Update from Summit Subcommittee: Traci DeShazor reported the following: The mini summits are focused on equipping, engaging, and empowering women. The Summit on Women co-chairs (Meta Braymer and Lori Merricks) cycled off the Council, so the subcommittee needs new leadership. The mini summits could bring in external speakers or leverage internal Council experts. The mini summits are scheduled for September 18 and October 16 from 4:00pm-6:00pm, and the goal is to have 60-75 attendees. Council members agreed that there is a great deal of local talent (in the Hamptons; Jennifer Boykin of Newport News Shipbuilding; Mary Baldwin University in Staunton; former Council members currently serving in the General Assembly; etc.). Council members agreed on a leadership development, advocacy, engagement, and networking focus for the mini summits since such a broad message/theme could help educate participants on the work of the Council and connect participants to community resources. Tabletop discussions with a panel and a keynote could provide for a possible format. Traci and Michaela Mizrahi will advance mini summit coordination based on input provided by Council members.

### New Business

- Kathy Spangler, Executive Director, American Evolution – Virginia to America: 1619-2019: Kathy Spangler provided an overview of American Evolution, the commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of historical events that occurred in Virginia in 1619, which continue to influence us today. Kathy distributed two American Evolution brochures: "We are Virginia; We are Achievers; We are America" and "History in Your Hand." Kathy described upcoming events and played several video clips, including tributes to Virginia's diverse founding mothers. Kathy invited the Council to participate in the Women's Achieve Summit on October 15, 2019, which she described as a 1-day variety show. Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa asked when Kathy needs a formal response regarding Council participation. Kathy said that the Council could alert her by this fall, and she would be glad to provide additional details to a Council designee and/or assign the Council's point person to a working group as plans develop. Kathy asked Council members to help promote American Evolution via mini summits, etc.
- Gena Berger, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources: Due to a scheduling conflict, Gena Berger was unable to discuss the Children's Cabinet and women's healthcare issues as planned. Council members agreed that it would be helpful to arrange for Gena or another staffer to speak at the October meeting, if possible.

Council members received 3 health coverage handouts: “Coming Soon: New Health Coverage for Adults” (English); “Próximamente: Nueva cobertura de salud para adultos” (Spanish); “Get the answers you need on new adult eligibility for health coverage.”

#### Chair Report

- Council Timeline 2018-2019: Carol Rick Gibbons reviewed the handout distributed to Council members that included Council meetings and activities from August 2018-October 2019. Carol Rick Gibbons said that Thursday Council meetings were selected based on the day that worked best for past Council members, so please advise if the current Council composition needs a different day.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Commemoration: Carol Rick Gibbons stated that more information is forthcoming.
- ERA Film Screening: On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the VA ERA will host a film screening of *Iron Jawed Angels* at 1:30pm at the Bryd Theatre, followed by a VIP reception with First Lady Pam Northam.
- Women’s Summit: On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Senator Warner will host a Women’s Summit in Roanoke. A “Save the Date” one-pager was distributed to Council members.

#### Announcements

- Amy Bridge distributed an invitation to an event about the book, “Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America.”

#### Next Meeting

The next Council meet is scheduled from 1:00-3:00pm on Thursday, October 11, 2018.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm on a motion by Amy Bridge, seconded by Ashley Marshall, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa, Secretary