



ANNUAL REPORT
July 2021 – June 2022

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is a strong recognized and respected voice for women in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is a non-partisan state commission that serves as the voice for women in Oklahoma. It strengthens and empowers women in Oklahoma by informing and educating the Legislature and Executive branches about issues to improve opportunities and quality of life for women. Visit the OCSW website at WWW.OK.GOV/OCSW/

As noted in the Bylaws, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women shall furtherance its obligation to advance the general welfare of the state, to give all citizens their opportunities to reach their full potential.

- The powers and duties of the Commission is to act as an advisory entity on equity issues relating to gender bias not only to state agencies and employees, but also to communities, organizations, and businesses of this state, which desire the services of the Commission.
- Act as a monitor on legislation as to whether the legislation is discriminatory toward one gender or the other, or whether the gender of an individual would influence the enforcement of the legislation.
- Act as a resource and a clearinghouse for research on issues related to women and gender bias.
- Conduct meetings and seminars within the state as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission; and
- Report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of its activities under this act. Such recommendations may include concern for needed legislation or regulatory changes relating to equity and gender bias

In keeping with our mission, and following our Bylaws, below is a highlight of the activities of the Commission for this period.

July 2021 – December 2021

July

Transition of new officers meeting held at Chappelwood Financial
Monthly Commission Business meeting suspended by vote of Commission during June 24th meeting.

State Chair Woods discusses Appropriations for Commission with Representative Scott Fetgatter.

Executive Director, Kitti Asberry elected as Vice President of National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW.)

Discovery document created to assist with identifying Commissioner's interest and strength.

Commission hold Special meeting to discuss changing location of Annual Retreat and Business meeting. During meeting, Commissioners vote and approve to move Retreat to OKC.

August

Commission holds Annual Business Meeting and Planning Retreat at the OKC, Downtown, Omni Hotel and Resort. Sub-committees created to assist with Standing Committees in reaching the goals of the Commission.

Commissioner's Dr. Nyla Khan and Brenda Jones Barwick selected as honorees for the Journal Record 2021, "*Fifty Making a Difference.*" Khan will be inducted into the Circle of Excellence.

State Chair Victoria Woods featured in an online article "Celebrating hard-working Women in Edmond."

Committees

Appropriations Committee: Chair, Victoria Woods. Newly formed Sub-committee created to secure operating funds from State Legislators.

Bylaws and Policies Committee: Chair's Rachel Mathew and Julie Dermody. Newly formed Sub-committee created to methodically review OCSW's Bylaws Policies and Procedures, and Statues for any conflicts between all documents, for the purpose of performing the duties of the Commission as our Oath requires. Currently reviewing Bylaws and Policies and Procedures.

Community Advise Committee: N/A

Community Conversations: OCSW's on-going initiative to provide women in Oklahoma an opportunity to discuss issues which directly and indirectly the communities they live in.

OWHOF Events Committee: Chair, Carol Hefner. Members working on venue location and revising

OWHOF Selection Committee: Chair Linda Haneborg. Members working on improving process for nominations.

Showcase Committee: Chair Jana Gridley. Newly formed Sub-committee created for marketing OCSW and building our Social Media presence. Committee will highlight the work of OCSW and its members.

Speaker's Bureau: Chair's, Pat Carr, and Dr. Runnels. Currently working on guidelines for committee and identifying other groups, organizations, and business to partner with.

TAPS / LINKS: Chair Karen Sneary. Nonpartisan statewide initiative designed to assist the Governor, President Pro Tempore, and Speaker of the House, by identifying Oklahoma women who are interested in serving on Boards, Commissions and Task Forces throughout Oklahoma through government appointments. Currently working on providing up-dated link to Governor's list of available appointed positions.

Watchdog / Defender's Committee: Monthly updates given on legislation, including interim studies.

September

Commissioner Karen Sneary attends Interim Study Supporting Pregnant Women and Expectant Fathers in High School, CareerTech, and Colleges to Improve Accommodations. Recommendation made to follow and monitor any upcoming legislation that may result from the study.

Members were encouraged to wear their pins/necklaces when at functions to better represent OCSW and to bring more awareness to the public.

Committees

Appropriations Committee: Scheduled zoom calls with Representatives Fetgatter and Wallace. Will schedule additional meetings with appropriate contacts.

Bylaws and Policies Committee: OCSW's Officer's elections will be changed to aligned with the requirements of Article V. Revisions will be noted by including dates and footnotes. Legislation will be included in the updated bylaw

Community Advise Committee: The committee will host a luncheon at the Phillips Pavilion at the Governor's Mansion, Friday, November 19, from 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. The event is invitation only, and all OCSW members, State Representatives and Senators will be invited. A tentative agenda is available. The Human Trafficking (HT) White paper that was approved by OCSW in a prior meeting, will be presented at the event.

Community Conversations: N/A

Showcase Committee: See above.

Speaker's Bureau: Information form created asking Commission members to list speaking topics

TAPS / LINKS: Looking at having a statewide marketing campaign to bring greater awareness of the project. Current plans are to get approval from Governor Stitt, President Senate Pro Tempore Treat and Speaker McCall to receive their support for a searchable database. The OCSW website is changing, and the committee will be working with the Public Relations and Communications committee to determine the feasibility of getting a database created that is searchable to assist with TAPS statewide

Watchdog / Defender's Committee: Interim studies still in progress.

October

Commissioner Woods meet with Senator Thompson, Secretary Bingman, and Senator Treat to discuss the Commissions charge, work for the state, operating Budget, and next step recommendations.

Emmalee Barressi welcomed as newest Commissioner

Committees

Community Advise Committee: N/A

Appropriations Committee: Plans to meet with Legislators to discuss operating funds for Commission

Bylaws and Policies Committee: Six pages of the Bylaws have been revised.

Community Conversations: Stop Human Trafficking Luncheon and Discussion Panel is scheduled for Friday, November 19, 2021, at the Phillips Pavilion at the Governor's Mansion. First Lady Sarah Stitt has been confirmed to speak. Invitation emailed. Speakers are confirmed. A Three-page White Paper with recommendations of improvement will be given out during the event. Commissioner J. Dermody to assist by making a video to be shown at the event.

Showcase Committee: Working with OMES to upgrade website

Speaker's Bureau: Currently posting on Facebook

TAPS / LINKS: N/A

Watchdog / Defender's Committee: Committee monitoring results of Interim study conducted by Senator K. Floyd regarding the state's response to the sexual assault kits backlog of over 2,700 cases. Committee to continue monitoring and reporting legislation.

November

Due to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, meeting changed to November 29.

Committees

Appropriations Committee: Meetings went well with Legislators

Bylaws and Policies Committee: N/A

Community Advise Committee

Community Conversations: Anti- Human Trafficking Luncheon cancelled. Will reschedule in early January 2022

Showcase Committee: Commission had press releases that appeared in the Edmond Life & Leisure and OKC Friday newspaper covering the OWHOF.

Speaker's Bureau: N/A

TAPS / LINKS: N/A

Watchdog / Defender's Committee: Report given that interim studies for this Session are completed. Updates will be provided. The legislature is currently in special session for redistricting.

December

No scheduled meeting for the month

January 2022 – June 2022

January

Representative Daniel Pae and Senator Darrell Weaver selected to receive the Guardian Award for their work on Human Trafficking.

The Commission hosted the Anti-Human Trafficking Luncheon and Discussion Panel at Governor's Pavilion. Panelists included Mike Snowden, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Mike Hoskins, High Intensity Drug Trafficking, Melissa Eick, Dragonfly home, Representative Daniel Pae and Senator Darrell Weaver. Legislation discussed at event, HB 1786, HB 3410, HB 3411, HB 4210, and SB 974.

Commissioner Lee Denney named Interim State Director of the Oklahoma CareerTech System

Committees

Appropriations Committee: N/A

Bylaws and Policies Committee: Reviewed operating procedures

Community Advise Committee: Members of the Community Advisory committee attend numerous zoom meetings and meet with Legislators at State Capitol to discuss amending 22 O.S. 2021, Section 152, which relates to prosecution limitations in general; creating a provision to permit prosecution of labor trafficking from within three (3) years of commission to within seven (7) years of discovery. Combined effort with the Watchdog Committee.

Advisory Council member, Yerkes, Advisory Council, represented the Commission in a virtual panel discussion at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Health and Air Quality Applied Sciences Teams Conference, January 20 and 21, 2022. She was a panelist on the Tracking Impacts of Air Quality Panel where she presented developing communications to promote skin cancer prevention using a Melanoma Dashboard.

Community Conversations: Continuation of the Human Trafficking

Showcase Committee: Working on updates on current website platform. Building presence on social media

Speaker's Bureau: Created outline and speaking points for program

TAPS / LINKS: Created outline and established clear targets for getting more women appointed to state boards, commissions, and advisory councils

Watchdog / Defender's Committee: Currently watching and monitoring pending legislature affecting women, girls, and families.

February

Judge Cindy Truong and Blayne Arthur, Secretary of Agriculture selected to receive the Kate Barnard Award for their work.

Commissioner Carol Hefner was the keynote speaker for the newly formed Grit and Grace at the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) event. The newly launched initiative was designed to inspire middle and high school girls to lead with courage through exposure to successful female mentors and western sports.

Advisory Council member Adeline Yerkes represented the Commission by giving a virtual presentation on Anti-Human Trafficking during the United Nations Association studies faculty and students of Eastern/Western Oklahoma. The presentation centered around the current activities of the Commission's Community Advisory Committee and their Anti-Human Trafficking work, for 2020-2022.

Committees

Appropriations Committee: Held meetings with Legislators to discuss Appropriations for operating

Bylaws and Policies Committee: Members working on updating Bylaws

Community Advise Committee: Members working on submitting Anti-Human Trafficking language to Legislators. Recommended change is An Act relating to human trafficking; amending 22 O.S. 2021, Section 152, which relates to prosecution limitations in general; creating a provision to permit prosecution of labor trafficking from within three (3) years of commission to within seven (7) years of discovery.

Community Conversations: N/A

Showcase Committee: Commissioner Woods does Interview with Robin Marsh on NEWS 9. Scheduled interviews with Radio Station 1520

Speaker's Bureau:

TAPS / LINKS: N/A

Watchdog / Defender's Committee: Committee members watching legislation at State Capitol

OWHOF Selection Committee: Committee formed to select 2022 Women's Hall of Fame Inductees

March

Commission members participated in the Equal Pay 101: Discrimination and the Gender Wage Gap sponsored by the Office of Federal Compliance Programs, the Women's Bureau, and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

In support of Women's History Month, Commission members participated in the National Association of Commissions for Women's (NACW) Movie Screening and Discussion of Barbara Lee's Speaking Truth to Power.

Adeline Yerkes, Advisory Council, represented the Commission as a panelist at the Virtual National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Health and Air Quality Applied Sciences

Teams Conference. Topic of discussion, developing communications to promote skin cancer prevention using a Melanoma Dashboard.

Committees

Appropriations Committee: N/A

Bylaws and Policies Committee: N/A

Community Advise Committee: Meeting at State Capitol with Senators Weaver and Floyd, Representatives, Pae, Bush, and Baker to discuss recommended language change for human trafficking bill and appropriations for Commission.

Community Conversations: N/A

Showcase Committee: OWHOF Press releases sent statewide announcing Inductees.

Speaker's Bureau: N/A

TAPS / LINKS: N/A

OWHOF Selection Committee: Members select Sue Ann Arnall, Carleen Burger, Janice Dobbs, Wanda Jackson, Dr. Roseline Nsikak, Dr. Kayse Shrum, Anna Belle Wiedemann, and Betty McElderry (posthumously.)

Watchdog / Defender's Committee: Commission monitoring Legislative Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023, per Board of Equalization's estimate amount of more than \$10.4 billion available. Two pieces of legislation being watched and monitored by committee; HB 4210 establishes the Human Trafficking Response Unit within the Office of the Attorney General. The Unit would create and maintain the database, so all law enforcement and victim support groups have a consistent system to share information. SB 1499, which would provide free menstrual products to low-income females while also helping others save money.

April

Commission hosts the Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, the Guardian, and Kate Barnard Recipients Award at the Omni Hotel.

Committees

Appropriations Committee: N/A

Bylaws and Policies Committee: Committee researching Election of Officers language in Bylaws

Community Advise Committee: N/A

Community Conversations: N/A

Showcase Committee: Second round of OWHOF Press releases sent statewide.

Speaker's Bureau: N/A

TAPS / LINKS: N/A

Watchdog / Defender's Committee: Two pieces of legislation being watched and monitored by committee; HB 3504. Requires insurance companies to cover diagnostic mammograms. HB 4374. Expanding domestic abuse language in state law that determines who can obtain a protective order.

May

Commissioner Brenda Barwick wins three National Awards in New York City. Public Relations Society of America (PRSA,) presented Jones PR with the Integrated Communications Campaign for First Americans Museum, Public Affairs Campaign for the Association of General Contractors, and the Creative Video for the Associations of General Contractors.

Committees

Appropriations Committee: Committee notified of \$150,000 in appropriations.

Bylaws and Policies Committee: N/A

Community Advise Committee: N/A

Community Conversations: N/A

Showcase Committee: N/A

Speaker's Bureau: Commissioner Pat Carr invited as Commencement Speaker for the Great Plains Technology Center in Lawton.

TAPS / LINKS: N/A

Watchdog / Defender's Committee: Members of committee will plan to attend interim studies scheduled this fall.

June

Commission holds elections of officers. In-coming Executive Board: Chair, Brenda Barwick, Vice Chair, Carol Hefner, Financial Officer, Jill Shero, Secretary, Julie Dermody, Advisory Council Chair, Dr. Nyla Khan (re-elected.)

Committees

Appropriations Committee: Report given that all funds are to be used to study Human Trafficking

Bylaws and Policies Committee: N/A

Community Advise Committee: N/A

Community Conversations: N/A

Showcase Committee: N/A

Speaker's Bureau: N/A

TAPS / LINKS: N/A

Watchdog / Defender's Committee: Information concerning SB1061, an Act relating to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services shared with Commission. Funds to be used for the Studying of Human Trafficking in Oklahoma.

Executive Officers

Victoria Woods, Chair
Julie Dermody, Secretary
Dr. Nyla Khan, Advisory Council Chair

Carol Hefner, Vice Chair
Jill Shero, Financial Officer
Dr. Delores Runnels, Immediate Past Chair

Commissioners

Rhonda Baker
Brenda Barwick
Pat Carr
Emily Crouch
Janie Dillard
Jessica Grogis
Linda Haneborg
Jean Lehr
Shondra McCage
Shauna Peters
Brenda Stanley
Tammy West

Emmalee Barresi
Marci Bond
Denise Castelli
Lee Denney
Jana Gridley
Joy Hammons
Estela Hernandez
Shiny Mathew
Cyndi Munson
Briana Ramos
Ollie Starr

Executive Director, Kitti Asberry

Humbly submitted

Victoria Woods, State Chair

About Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women:

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is a non-partisan state commission that serves as the voice for women in Oklahoma. It strengthens and empowers women in Oklahoma by informing and educating the Legislature and Executive branches about issues to improve opportunities and quality of life for women. We encourage you to visit our website at www.ok.gov/ocsw/. For additional information concerning the Commission, please contact Kitti Asberry, Executive Director at ocswadmin@omes.ok.gov or Pakita.asberry@omes.ok.gov. You may also call 405/401-6970 to speak with someone.