

Oklahoma
Commission
on the Status of
Women



Annual Report

July 2011–June 2012

Catherine Haynes, Ponca City
 Joyce Horton Sanders, Chickasha
 Ashley Kehl, Oklahoma City
 Rebecca Kennedy, Seminole
 Denise Kinzie, Cushing
 Lou Kohlman, Oklahoma City
 Valaska Littlefield, Tulsa
 Bernice Mitchell, Stillwater
 Chris Morriss, Oklahoma City
 Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Stillwater
 Nancy Rothman, Tulsa
 Devon Shannon, Lawton
 Holly Shelton, Oklahoma City
 Nancy Smith, Chickasaw
 Peggy Thompson, Edmond
 Valerie Thompson, Oklahoma City
 Karla Wallace, Oklahoma City
 Mary Walker, Tulsa
 Nikki Watters, Shawnee
 Adeline Yerkes, Edmond

Advisory Council Members

Kitti Asberry, Oklahoma City
 Carol Axley, Tulsa
 Isabel Baker, Tahlequah
 Laura Boyd, Norman
 Debbie Boyer, Oklahoma City
 Chloe Brown, Tulsa
 Marilyn Capps, Oklahoma City
 Glenna Carlile, Oklahoma City
 Amy Carte, Oklahoma City
 Joy Culbreath, Durant
 Bob Darcy, Stillwater
 Linda Dobson, Oklahoma City
 Lydia Gonzalez D’Ross
 Linda Edmondson, Oklahoma City
 Pam Emmons, Midwest City
 Carol Fincher, Stillwater
 Gloria Fletcher, Enid
 Sally Frasier, Tulsa
 Vicky French, Foss
 Risha Grant, Tulsa
 Kimberly Grayson, Glenpool
 Marilyn Harmon, Blackwell
 Lyn Hester, Oklahoma City
 Robin Hudson, Tulsa
 Jolinda Hutchison, Spencer
 Kathy Huston, Stillwater
 Letita Jackson, Tulsa
 Rosalyn Jackett
 Katheryn Jones, Bentonville

Communications Committee Co-Chair
 Administrative/Restructuring Committee

Incarceration Committee Chair
 Secretary
 NACW Women Representative

History Committee Chair,

Communications Committee Chair

Past Chair and Family Issues Chair

Chairperson & Summit Chair

Kelsey Kemp, Norman
 Shelia Kennison, Perkins
 Lou Kerr, Oklahoma City
 Marilyn Korhonen, Norman
 Donna Lawrence, Oklahoma City
 Kay Long Mentzer, Midwest City
 Sheryl Lovelady, Oklahoma City
 Susan Marcus Mendoza, Norman
 Joyce Martin, Broken Arrow
 Kay Martin, Oklahoma City
 Pat Martin, Purcell
 Carolyn Mclarty, Mutual
 Edna Miller Hennessee, Tulsa
 Jilda Motley, Tulsa
 Anita Norman, Perry
 Lanell Olson, Bethany
 Penny Painter, Tulsa
 Janet Peery, Oklahoma City
 Representative Pam Peterson, Tulsa
 Patty Presley, Oklahoma City
 Laura Pitman, Oklahoma City
 Pam Richardson, Tulsa
 Marjan Seirafi-Pour, Norman
 Jeanetta Shipp, Stillwater
 Marlene Smith, Muskogee
 Heather Simon, Tulsa
 Gail Stricklin, Oklahoma City
 Leslie Thomas, Oklahoma City
 Carolyn Whitener, Edmond
 Correna Wilson, Stillwater
 Latasha Wilson, Stillwater
 Esther Winterfelt, Stillwater
 Sue Ann Woodward, Tulsa



The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women was created in 1994 as a result of Enrolled Senate Bill 1147, Second Session of the 44th Legislature of Oklahoma. The measure, which added several new sections to title 74 O. S., defined the legislative intent and the basis of the Commission’s charge: “In furtherance of its obligation to advance the general welfare of the state, the Legislature is cognizant of its duty to give all citizens their opportunities to reach their full potential. Therefore, the Legislature declares its intent that any inhibiting conditions caused by any factors which impede the ability of an individual to reach the full potential of that individual are matters of public concern.” Such intent covers a broad range of issues and potential actions to be addressed by the Commission.

Mission

The Mission of the Commission is to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma.

Vision

The Vision of the Commission is to advocate social justice, gender equity, and equal opportunity through effective leadership.

Duties

- Act as an advisory entity on equity issues relating to gender bias not only to state agencies and employees, but to communities, organizations and business of this state which desire the services of the Commission;
- Act as a monitor of legislation as to whether the legislation is discriminatory toward one gender or the other or whether the gender of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement of the legislation;
- Act as a resource and clearinghouse for research on issues related to women and gender bias;
- Conduct meetings and seminar within the state as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission; and
- Report annually to the Governor and Legislature on activities.

Annual Activities and Accomplishments

During state fiscal year 2012 the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women conducted the following activities in support of its legislated duties:

“Act as an advisory entity on equity issues relating to gender bias not only to state agencies and employees, but to communities, organizations and business of this state which desire the services of the Commission.”

- Continues to partner with the Young Leadership Initiative, Carl Albert Center of the University of Oklahoma on “The Appointments Project (TAP)”. The Appointments Project is an effort to identify qualified women to serve in elected or appointed positions. Members of the Commission served as advisors by assisting the Project with dissemination of the project’s materials and with identifying qualified women to seek appointments.
- Serves in an advisory role and active partner in the “Count the Costs” Coalition. Count the Costs is a nonpartisan, statewide effort of organizations to identify evidence-based strategies which lower the incarceration rate of Oklahoma women. Statewide policy groups, nonprofits, key state agencies, organizations, advocates and stakeholders are taking part in this effort. The purpose of this partnership is to build statewide awareness, promote innovative and effective solutions using best practices, and effect change through facilitated partnerships and collaboration. As a Commission, members studied the data and recommendations from the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and participated in various Justice Reinvestment Initiative Town Hall meetings and briefings.
- Tracks and reviews bills related to women and family issues during the legislative session. The Legislative Committee of the Commission, at regular meetings, present status of those bills tracked for discussion.
- February 23, 2012 the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women held its annual Kate Barnard Award Ceremony and Luncheon at the Oklahoma Judicial Center in recognition of salaried officials supporting women and families.
- May 16, 2012 the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women honored Speaker of the House Kris Steele and Representative Pam Peterson each with the Guardian Award. The Guardian Award is presented to elected officials who have made significant governmental contributions to guarding, protecting and preserving the rights of women and families.
- May 17, the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women sponsored the women’s summit: “Wise Choices: Solutions to Obesity and Diabetes in Women.” Two major panels discussed healthy weight and healthy glucose.
- Commissioners also serve on national committees or boards to foster equity: National Association of Commissions on Women and 2020 Agenda for Women and Equity.

rights of women and families. The 2012 recipients of the Guardian Award were Speaker of the House Kris Steele, and Representative Pam Peterson.



Speaker of the House, Kris Steele



Representative Pam Peterson

2011-2012 Officers

Chair:	Adeline Yerkes, Oklahoma City
Vice Chair:	Deena Fisher, Woodward
Secretary:	Valaska Littlefield, Tulsa
Advisory Council Chair:	Fern Bowling, Stillwater
Nominating Committee Members:	Secretary Rita Aragon, Oklahoma City, Patty Bryant, Tulsa and Rebecca Kennedy, Seminole

2010-2011 Membership – OCSW and Advisory Council

OCSW: The Commission consists of 30 commissioners appointed by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. A list of Commissioners is attached at the end of the report.

Advisory Council: Advisory Council members act as resources and provide expertise to the Commission. The Advisory Council serves as a vehicle to help the Commission meet its requirements to act as an outreach resource to the women of the state, to be a resource and clearinghouse for research and information on issues related to women and gender bias, to act as an advisory entity on equity issues to state agencies, communities, organizations and businesses of the state and to establish recommendations for action to improve the quality of life for Oklahoma women.

Commissioners

Rita Aragon, Cabinet Secretary, Veteran Affairs	OCSW Nominating Committee
Brenda Barwick, Edmond	
Mary Louise Binning, Oklahoma City	
Patty Bryant, Tulsa	OCSW Nominating Committee
Fern Bowling, Stillwater	OCSW Advisory Council Chair
Representative Lee Denney, Cushing	
Malaka Elyazgi, Norman	
Deena Fisher, Woodward	Physical & Mental Health Committee, Chair Vice - Chairperson

lifespan course of unhealthy behaviors on fat cells and highlighted evidence-based interventions to delay and prevent the consequences of this heredity and behavior. It also drew attention for the need to plan for a healthy pregnancy with a healthier weight woman prior and during the pregnancy and the growing numbers of Gestational Diabetes (diabetes occurring during pregnancy) and its consequences.

The Commission invited women from across the state of Oklahoma to attend. During the course of the Summit, two major panels were provided: healthy weight and healthy glucose. At the end of each panel, facilitated discussions were held which lead to recommendations that the Commission and its statewide partners could develop and implement.

The facilitated discussion recommendations for each panel are listed below. Over the course of the FY 2013, the Commission will be taking the recommendations and developing implementation strategies and we will keep you informed of our progress.

- Healthy Weight – Educate the public and policy makers through a variety of communication channels based on the theme: “Our children will not live to collect Social Security with the current growth in obesity.”
- Healthy Glucose – Educate the public, policy makers and health care providers through a variety of communication channels on the theme: “One child in three born today will develop diabetes.” Plus assisting partners with public, patient and provider education on Gestational Diabetes.

A program book was published with additional educational pages on obesity and diabetes. A luncheon brochure was published which presented the healthy menu and accompanying recipes.



The Guardian Award –May 16, 2012

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women created the Guardian Award in April 2010 to recognize Oklahoma Legislative, Executive, and Judicial elected officials who have made significant governmental contributions to guarding, protecting and preserving the

“Act as a monitor of legislation as to whether the legislation is discriminatory toward one gender or the other or whether the gender of an individual would have an effect on the enforcement of the legislation.”

- The Legislative Committee of the Commission tracks and reviews bills related to women and family issues during the legislative session. During the regular meetings, proposed legislation is presented.

“Act as a resource and clearinghouse for research on issues related to women and gender bias.”

- The Communications Committee of the Commission maintains a Commission website resource page of state and national website links.
- *Solutions, Initiatives, Strategies to Reduce the Incarceration of Oklahoma Women: A Public Agenda Action Plan* was disseminated to individuals and/or organizations.
- Oklahoma State Department of Health published *PRAMSGRAM: Gestational Diabetes Among Oklahoma Mothers, vol16.no1, Spring 2012* was disseminated at the Women’s Summit, at the Diabetes Update and sent to other organizations.
- The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women’s website contains information on committee activities, Commission Projects and Partnerships and any product or report.
- The Commission’s website archives the annual reports, regular meeting agendas and minutes. <http://www.ok.gov/ocsw/Resources/index.html>
- The Commission established a History Committee to develop materials, products and proceedings of the Commission since inception to provide an archived history of the Commission for the public.

“Make an annual report of activities.”

This annual report for SFY 2012 is a reflection of current actions and activities. Prior year annual reports are archived on the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women website.

http://www.ok.gov/ocsw/Annual_Reports/index.html

“Conduct meetings and seminars within the state as appropriate to support the goals and duties of the Commission.”

The Commission conducted its duties through ten (10) regular meetings plus committee activities.



Front row left to right: Rebecca Kennedy (C), Rosalyn Jacquett (AC)
Back row left to right: Patty Bryant(C),Kelsey Kemp (AC), Nikki Watters (C), Denise Kinzie (C) and Repr. Jadine Nollan (C)



Front row left to right: Deena Fisher (C), Bernice Mitchell (C), Fern Bowling (C) and Patty Bryant (C)
Back row left to right: Valaska Littlefield (C), Joyce Martin (AC), Malaka Elyazgi

FY12 Committee Activities and Accomplishments

Budget and Restructuring Committee

Charge

Commissioners and Advisory Council members for the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women (OCSW) reviewed and discussed its enabling and revised legislation, mission and vision statements, operating rules and procedures to determine key areas in which the existing documents are silent or in need of revision at the Commission's Annual Retreat and Planning Session June 2011.

Background

Contextually this charge, during the June 2011 Annual Retreat, was one of the agenda items growing out of the work of the Commission's Budget and Finance Committee. This committee was formed in FY11 to develop an operational line item budget and restructure the leadership to include a financial officer to liaison with the Office of State Finance on monitoring budget and expenditures. Previously the Commission itself had discussions relevant to issues identified as needing to be addressed in OCSW Operating Rules and Procedures. Consequently, the Commission formed the ad hoc Budget and Restructuring Committee to take the guidelines and direction provided by Commissioners and Advisory Council Members at the Retreat to provide a comprehensive reorganization of its Operating Rules and Procedures documents and to provide revisions relevant to the Commission's efficient operation in the context of its mission and legislated responsibilities.

During the June 2011 Annual Retreat, the Commission determined a new leadership structure

SENIOR & EXECUTIVE

- ▶ CHAIR
- ▶ VICE CHAIR
- ▶ SECRETARY
- ▶ ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR
- ▶ FINANCIAL OFFICER
- ▶ RECORDING &/ OR COORDINATING SEC
- ▶ COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER OR CHAIR
- ▶ LEGISLATIVE MONITOR OFFICER OR CHAIR
- ▶ PAST PRESIDENT

Reorganization of Operating Rules, Policies and Procedures

Operating Rules, Policies and Procedures were assembled to address significance regarding legislative purpose and to provide clarity and transparency. The following represents the broad list of items addressed, although it is not comprehensive as every area of rules and policy was discussed and included in the revision process.



The National Association of Commissions for Women 2012 Conference will be in Charleston, West Virginia, July 23-28.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council accepted, reviewed and recommended Advisory Council applications for the following:

Amy Carte	Kay Long- Mentzer
Pam Emmons	Lanell Olson
Lydia Gonzalez D’Ross	Marilyn Korhonen
Rosalyn Jacquett	Kelsey Kemp

Special Projects Committees

2012 Kate Barnard Award and Luncheon – February 23, 2012

The purpose of this award is to recognize women who have made a difference in Oklahoma through outstanding service as public servants. In 2012, the OCSW presented the award to State Representative Lisa Billy and Educator Natalie Shirley.



Representative Lisa Billy



Natalie Shirley

“Can’t Turn Me Around,” a staged reading based on oral histories of Oklahoma women in politics sponsored by Oklahoma State University’s Oral History Research Program was presented following the award ceremony. Commissioner Bernice Mitchell was honored as one of the oral histories.

The Women’s Summit, “Wise Choices: Solutions to Obesity and Women”- May 17, 2012

The 2012 Women’s Summit focused on health, a topical priority of the Commission. The Commission chose to increase the awareness of obesity and diabetes in women. Oklahoma has been facing increased rates of obesity in women both adults (31.4%) and youth (13.8%) as well as diabetes in adult females (10.2%). This summit drew attention to the issues; the human genetic profile of how we as human develop fat cells, the

- Partnered with other coalitions, agencies and organizations who form the “Count the Costs” Coalition which is implementing the public agenda action plan by
 - o Collaborating, studying and educating on Justice Reinvestment Act activities
 - o Reviewing key legislation as suggested by the results of Justice Reinvestment assessment and recommendations
 - o Collaborating to establish ‘listening forums’ planned for the fall of 2012
- Partnering with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections reflected the following: “During Fiscal Year 2011, 1,171 women were received into the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. This was a decrease of 222 receptions from Fiscal Year 2010. The majority of the decline in receptions was attributable to decreases in the two largest counties. Oklahoma County receptions fell 28% from 324 to 234. Tulsa County receptions fell 31% from 315 to 216. While a testament to the concerted effort of the Commission and multiple stakeholders, sustained effort remains critical to achieving our goal of reducing our incarceration rate to the national average.”

Legislative and Policy Committee

Actions and Activities:

The Legislative Committee tracked bills related to women, children and families as well as bills related to the topical areas of interest: human trafficking, health and incarceration of women. The Committee tracked a total of 23 bills related to women, gender and family issues. Bills of interest are presented at regular meetings during the Legislative year. Of particular interest:

- HB 2388- Drug testing for TANF recipients - Gov. Approved 5-16-12
- HB 2518- Human Trafficking, definitions, penalties- Gov. Approved 4-18-112
- HB 3052 - Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act- Gov. Approved 5-9-12+
- SB 1882 - Shared use of school facilities for P.E. – Governor Approve 4-12

National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Representative

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women, a member of the since 2005, has had representation on its Board of Directors since 2006 and has a current member serving on the Executive Team. NACW is composed of 150(state/county/city) member commissions representing ten U.S. regions. Its mission is to seek equality and justice for women and families by increasing the effectiveness of its member commissions and serving as their voice at the national level.

Each year the NACW presents Outstanding Achievement Awards to its member commissions for projects that inspire, enhance or preserve the history of the lives of women, children and families. The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women has submitted successful projects for the last five years with the 2011 project being a History Poster of all women who have served in the Oklahoma Legislature. OCSW is submitting a project application in support of the Women’s Summit 2012 for the annual meeting of NACW. Gold and silver certificates have also been presented to OCSW for participating in NACW’s “Healthy Bones” project which focuses on education and screenings for Osteoporosis which affect women and men.

1. Election of Officers: Term of Office, Election Process, Officer Eligibility, Nominating Committee Responsibilities, Vacancies, and Legal Requirements.
2. Officers and Committees: Executive, Executive Committee, Finance Officer, and Senior Officers, Chair as agent, and Committee structure and appointments.
3. Commissioner Emeritus Status: Criteria
4. Open Meeting Laws: Inclusion of key elements in Rules and Policies.
5. Open Records Laws: Inclusion of key elements in Rules and Policies.
6. Operating Rules and Policies language clean-up and clarification throughout documents.
7. Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame: Purpose, Eligibility including standard of excellence and ties to Oklahoma in state, nation or world, Selection Process, Selection Committee, Event Committee, and Conflict of Interest.

Revision Progress

The first three phases of the OCSW Operating Rules and Procedures process was completed in FY12. This includes,

- Phase I: Documents Reorganization
- Phase II: OCSW adoption of Mission and Vision Statements, Legislative Purpose, and Legislated Rules and Policies
- Phase III: adoption of Commission Rules and Policies
- Phase IV: adoption of Commission Procedures is underway and will be completed during FY13
- Phase V: Executive Overview and History are also underway, particularly awaiting the work of the OCSW archive and history work currently in progress. Further, as the Rules, Policies and Procedures are implemented and utilized work will need to be done to fine tune passages to better serve the Commission

Executive Committee Report

Purpose of Committee: The Executive Committee strives to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma through coordinating the activities of the Commission, convening ad hoc committees, and coordinating administrative operations with the Human Capital Management Division of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to oversee efficient and effective management of the administrative office of the Commission.

Actions and activities:

- published agendas and minutes of regular meetings
- convened the Executive Committee three times during the year to handle personnel, budget and regular operations of the Commission
- convened a Family Issues Committee to address issues of women, children and families – human trafficking chosen as the priority area of study and action
- convened the History Committee to establish a records retention protocol and to develop a history of the Commission and its actions
- convened a past-chair Committee to assist with Commissioner mentoring and other special projects
- convened a personnel committee to recruit and hire a new office assistant
- revised and published a Commission brochure and pocket folder
- recommended and adopted the procedure of allocating each committee \$500 for committee activities
- conducted an orientation session for five new Commissioners



Left to right: New Commissioners Nikki Watters and Karla Wallace, Chairperson Adeline Yerkes, New Commissioners Brenda Barwick and Mary Louise Binning



New Commissioner Representative Jadine Nollan

Family Issues Committee

The Commission voted to take a stand against Human Trafficking. The Commission chose this topic as the major focus of the Family Issues Committee.

Actions and activities:

- Mark Elam, Coalition Director of OATH (Oklahomans Against Human Trafficking), gave two orientation presentations to the Commission and Advisory Council members. OATH is a non-profit organization dedicated to increase awareness of human trafficking, to identify victims, and work collaboratively with partners to provide services to identified victims in Oklahoma
- Each Commissioner and Advisory Council member was given a DVD and informational materials about OATH and Human Trafficking
- The Family Issues Chair represents the Commission on the Task Force Committee (Bringing Together Oklahomans to expose and end slavery) which meets each 3rd Wednesday at the State Attorney General's Office in Oklahoma City
- The Family Issues Committee held two meetings: Conference Call and Meeting in Stroud, Oklahoma
- The Chair and several members have attended the 6-Hour Training Session sessions conducted by OATH
- Governor Mary Fallin signed a proclamation for the State of Oklahoma that April 22-28, 2012, be Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Week
- Representative Pam Peterson and several other members of the Commission met with the Executive Director of DaySpring Villa to learn of its activities related to supporting victims of human trafficking. This facility is the only certified facility for human trafficking victims in the state
- Representative Pam Peterson, Advisory Council member, submitted a request for a House Interim Session on Human Trafficking. This interim session was approved and will be held in September 2012

Physical and Mental Health Committee

Purpose of committee: The Physical and Mental Health Committee strives to improve the health status, quality of life and reduce disparities of women and families in Oklahoma through communicating health

messages, conducting seminars and special health events. The Commission supports National Association of Commissions on Women health programs as approved by the Commission. Bone Health is the current national initiative which stresses the importance of calcium rich diet, weight bearing exercise, osteoporosis risk assessment and prevention.

Actions and activities:

- At the monthly regular meetings a health message was communicated about heart health, osteoporosis prevention, and mental health
- Women and Diabetes was selected as the topic for the Annual Women's Summit FY 12 during the annual retreat. Committee members began serving immediately in a planning capacity for this event
- Served as roundtable facilitators for the Women's Summit
- Helped promote gestational diabetes awareness at the Commission's 2012 Women's Summit
- Implemented bone health project by having a bone density machine for screening and educational information at the Summit

History Committee

The History Committee was formalized as a committee at the January 2012 regular meeting. The charge given to this committee was to develop policies and procedures for the archiving of Commission Records and to develop and write a chronological history of the Commission. The committee began its deliberations in February 2012.

Actions and Activities:

On March 22, 2012, the Commission approved the creation of a records retention schedule in coordination with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and to arrange, describe, and preserve the Commission's current records.

The archiving project was contracted to Oklahoma State University beginning May 7, 2012. To date, the contract project team has assessed the current records, created and submitted a processing plan, began arranging and processing the collection contents, and updated the OCSW's administrative history. The project scope will include creating a collection finding aid, which will be made available electronically, and proposing records management guidelines to handle ongoing collection maintenance.

Incarceration of Women Committee

Purpose of Committee: The Incarceration of Women Committee strives to improve the quality of life and reduce disparities of women and families in Oklahoma through partnering with other coalitions, agencies and organization on activities and actions to reduce the incarceration of women.

Actions and Activities:

- Published additional copies of the "Solutions, Initiatives, Strategies to Reduce the Incarceration of Oklahoma Women: A Public Agenda Action Plan" and disseminated to Count the Cost partners. Additionally, a dissemination plan is being developed to distribute to appropriate educational facilities statewide the plan and to promote its potential actions