



# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN OF SANMATEO COUNTY

Submitted to the Board of Supervisors on March 17, 2015

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), founded in 1982, seeks to improve the quality of life for women of all ages in San Mateo County. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration, the Commission identifies women's needs, advises the Board of Supervisors, and educates the community on matters concerning women. The Commission also honors the achievements of women through the annual Women's Hall of Fame, now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year. Supervisor Carole Groom is the Board of Supervisors' Liaison to the Commission. The actions of the Commission contribute to Shared Vision 2025 of a Collaborative Community.

### II. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission consists of 17 adult and 2 youth members who are residents of San Mateo County. There are currently five vacancies due to commissioners moving outside of San Mateo County or the conclusion of their appointment terms. The recruitment is underway as of March 2015. Current members include:

Carrie Gann, *President*

Tanisha Hughes, *Vice President*

Becky Abens

Ruth Fullmer

Elsie Gufler

Kristy Koberna

Linda Koelling

Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i

Marguerite Machen

Christine Padilla

Sandra Schuster

Anisha Weber

Bharathi Chinnakotla,

*Youth Commissioner*

Luca Richardson

*Youth Commissioner*

### III. COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

In 2014, commissioners were involved in a number of activities that will be outlined briefly in this section.

#### **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Hall of Fame**

Considerable effort went into the planning of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Hall of Fame which included a keynote speech by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor who began her legal career in San Mateo County. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Dr. Faye McNair-Knox, and Fatima Soares were inducted into the Hall of Fame along with Young Woman of Excellence, Nina Luo, on March 21, 2014 at the San Mateo County History Museum.

#### **Permanent Women's Hall of Fame Exhibit**

Further enhancements were made to a permanent, iPad- driven, digital exhibit at the San Mateo County History Museum featuring the Women's Hall of Fame and Young Women of Excellence Honorees. Museum patrons can search biographical information about honorees and view their photos year round.

#### **Gender Analysis of Boards and Commissions**

The Commission is in the process of completing year three of an analysis of the gender composition of County Boards and Commissions that will be conducted annually to assess whether involvement in County advisory bodies is reflective of the gender demographics of the County.

#### **Women's Political Leadership Development**

The Commission continued its support of efforts to encourage and train women to seek appointed and elected positions through its collaboration with the Women's Community Leadership Network (WCLN), a non-profit that was formed in 2013 when California Women Lead eliminated its local chapter model. The commission co-sponsored, an August 26<sup>th</sup> Women's Equality Day mixer for elected and appointed women as well as a Board, Commission and Committee Training.

#### **Women's Clothing Drive**

The Commission organized a successful clothing drive in January 2014 involving generous donations from

more than 150 County employees for women's work attire to benefit women in need who are entering or re-entering the workforce.

#### **Human Trafficking**

The Commission has been educating itself about the growing issue of human trafficking, connecting with local organizations that focus on human trafficking response and developing a plan to raise public awareness. The Commission co-sponsored, in collaboration with clergy leaders, a screening of the documentary film "In Plain Sight" that was attended by more than 600 people and requested that the Board of Supervisors proclaim January Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Commissioners participated in a June SB1193 Human Trafficking poster distribution event and added a section on Human Trafficking resources to the Commission webpage.

#### **Legislative**

A legislative work group analyzed bills related to human trafficking and women's criminal justice issues.

#### **Women's Correctional Center**

Members of the Commission's Women's Jail Work Group developed the report, *Recommendations for Gender Responsive Programming at the Maple Street Correctional Center*, after researching best practices and learning about plans for the new facility. Next steps include sharing the report with the Jail Planning Unit. Commissioners also attended the CHOICES women's holiday event and were represented at a Jail Planning Meeting conducted by the Sheriff's Office.

#### **Women's Art Exhibit**

During the month of March (Women's History Month), the Commission co-sponsored with the Arts Commission a Women's Art Exhibit in the Hall of Justice showcasing the work of local women artists and focusing on the theme, "The Female Gaze".

## Facebook Page

A Facebook page, available at [www.facebook.com/SanMateoCountyCSW](http://www.facebook.com/SanMateoCountyCSW), has more than 200 followers and continues to be used for community outreach.

## IV. PLANS FOR 2015

The Commission continues to work on the 2013-2015 goals that it established at its June 2013 annual retreat. Key projects and events anticipated in the upcoming year include:

- § celebration of the 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 20, 2015;
- § education and advocacy on the issues of Human Trafficking;
- § advocacy for gender responsive programming at the forthcoming Maple Street Correctional Facility;
- § continuation of an annual gender analysis of County boards and commissions;
- § collaboration with organizations that encourage and support the involvement of women in appointed and elected positions; and
- § strategic planning at a retreat that will be held following the onboarding of five new commissioners.

## IV. FISCAL IMPACT

All activities undertaken by the Commission are covered by profits from the Women's Hall of Fame Awards Celebration. Staff support is provided by the San Mateo County Human Resources Department.

## V. MORE INFORMATION

Additional information about the Commission on the Status of Women of San Mateo County is available from Commission Director, Honora R. Miller, MSW, at [hmiller@smcgov.org](mailto:hmillersmcgov.org), by calling 650-363-4872 or on the Commission webpages at <http://csw.smcgov.org>.

Commission meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of most months and the third Tuesday in November, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at 455 County Center in Redwood City, conference room 101 (first floor). The 2015 meeting schedule is listed below:

January 27	June 23
February 24	September 22
April 28	October 27
May 26	November 17