

Committee of Women's Rights (COWR)

2015 Business meeting minutes, November 4, 2015

Attendance: Constance Jackson, Beringia Liu, Gloria Giarratano, Kimberly Narian, Karlene Baddy

Absent: Nathan Boucher, Marjorie Sable, Elizabeth -Barajas Roman

The meeting was called to order by Karlene at 6:40 a.m.

Karlene welcomed all members and congratulated new members - Gloria, Kimberly and Beringia on their appointments to the committee. She thanked Elizabeth -Barajas Roman for her thoughtful contributions to the committee for the past 3 years. She also congratulated **Constance** on her appointment as the COWR Chair for the next 3 years. She commented on the outstanding quality of her work during the time she was assisting the previous Chair.

Karlene asked the new members to introduce themselves and provide some information on their interest in participating in the COWR.

Members' reports are as follows:

Kimberly Narian is an internal medicine physician by training and has always been interested in women's health. She is currently pursuing a PhD. in health services research with a focus on the impact of welfare reform on women's health. Currently she is working at a VA center for health care innovation implementation and policy investigating issues with women's health disparities among female veterans.

Beringia Liu received her MPH in Policy with an interest in food and nutrition which is her background. She currently works as a consultant in public health policy. She has been involved in a lot of different fields including women's issues. She is also an intern in the LA Department of Public Health in the nutrition department.

Gloria Giarratano comes with tremendous experience. She is an academic nurse. Her background is in maternal infant nursing. She has a PhD and has experience in research in women's mental health issues. She had the opportunity to look at the recovery phase of pregnant women returning home after Katrina. She was involved in a pilot study and concerned about what would be appropriate to do with the data collected from the pilot regarding mental health. She sits on the Board of Planned Parenthood and also on the Board of the Gulf Coast. She shared her work in New Orleans and the issues that affect the health of residents.

Karlene Baddy gave a brief history of her experience in service oriented work, her work at the DC Department of Health and current employment with APHA as the Director of Public Health Systems and Partnerships for the past 14 years including working with special sessions, partnerships, public health quality and work with a CDC grant. She also expressed her long term interest in mental health issues.

Constance Jackson discussed her role as chair of COWR for the past 2 years. She is currently in health technology after experiences in dietetics and owning her own company. She became interested in the Violence against Women's Act when she first came to COWR and requested an APHA response. The request was supported by APHA's Executive Director and a letter was forwarded to Congress.

Constance requested that the members read the minutes of the last year. She discussed the recommended changes made by the committee to the language in the Charter to clearly focus on leadership and encouragement of leadership. The Board has not yet acted on the language change.

She gave an overview of the activities of COWR during the year in the report to the Governing Council which was included in the members' packages.

Discussion of scientific sessions

Constance reported that COWR endorsed many scientific sessions. She suggested mental health, leadership and reproductive rights should be maintained as invited sessions. The members agreed with her suggestion and began identification of speakers for these sessions. She emphasized that members would have the responsibility to organize the sessions and get knowledgeable presenters. She suggested that a poster session could focus on climate change. Constance would like to be the organizer for the session on "women leaders in public health" and all members agreed.

Karlene informed members that they do not need permission to create sessions but they should identify the issues that are important to women for submission. They should also be cognizant of the public health issues at the annual meeting's location in Denver as they develop sessions.

Karlene discussed the important role of the session organizers and specifically the moderator for the scientific sessions and the importance of the summarizing the sessions and ensuring that the learning objectives are met.

Constance reported that last year's session evaluation was very good. She also reported that Beringia and Kim did an outstanding job in moderating and presenting their session which was also well attended.

Karlene reported that all COWR's sessions were eligible for CE credits.

Further discussions and on suggested topics for 2016 will continue and finalized during the next conference call in 2016.

There was a brief discussion on the status of the consolidation of EHOC, COWR and IHRC.

Karlene encouraged the members to look through their package for letters by APHA's Executive Director in support of women's issues.

Schedules for the conference call times were discussed. (We were pleased to see Dr. Benjamin pass by and Karlene introduced him to the members who took a picture with him).

Constance thanked everyone for a successful meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Constance at 8:00 a.m.