

Committee of Women's Rights (COWR)

Minutes: January 28, 2016

Attendance: Constance Jackson, Kimberly Narain, Beringia Liu, Marjorie Sable, Gloria Giarratano, Karlene Baddy

Absent: Nathan Boucher

Discussions revolved around developing sessions for the 2016 Annual Meeting and determining appropriate presenters for all sessions.

COWR is approved for 3 scientific sessions and 2 poster sessions for 2016 Annual meeting.

Karlene reminded members to review APHA's strategic plan as well as the theme of the meeting as they develop their sessions to ensure that sessions are compatible with the strategic plan and the APHA 2016 meeting theme.

Constance suggested that the members do invited sessions for the scientific sessions. In discussing the invited sessions she stated that they would take the shape of a thought leadership approach. If the committee members consider the approach too taxing then it could also be a call for abstracts at which point speakers do not have to be researchers giving a presentation. The invited sessions can be shaped to reflect how they are impacting a particular issue.

Topics agreed on are as follows:

Suggested session topics:

1. Insuring the right to reproductive health and freedom

Marjorie and Gloria are responsible for this session. **Marjorie** will be the moderator. A presenter from Planned Parenthood who resides in Denver was

suggested as a presenter. Other presenters are being thought about that will provide synergy among presenters.

2. Innovative approaches to improving the mental health of traditionally underserved women

Kimberly and Beringia are responsible for this session. This session will highlight promising strategies for improving access to mental health care and quality of mental health care for various populations of women that have been traditionally underserved. Session objectives have been sent out. Contact has been initiated with some speakers. Presenters in this session will include licensed clinical psychologists. Other highly recommended presenters, some local to the meeting, and some who are involved in cutting edge research are being solicited at this time.

3. Public Health leadership in influencing women's health: partnerships in translational medicine

Constance will moderate this session. Her preference date for this session is on Monday, October 31st at 10:30 a.m. Proposed presenters are dynamic speakers, some from the University of Colorado and others who work with marginalized populations and women's research.

Karlene stressed the importance of creating session topics that will influence a large amount of attendees. Sessions topics should be very creative as they might possibly compete with other similar sessions at the same time and date.

Constance recommended that the priority for the discussions in the sessions should address the problems of the issues and not what the organization does.

Constance discussed the approach to a Special Session on Violence with committee members as well as potential participants.

Constance suggested that COWR respond to the RFP to participate in the Special Session on Violence.

Karlene reminded committee members that she should not participate in the discussion on their decision to respond to the RFP for a Special Session. She stated that it is a competitive process and since she is the first evaluator of the responses it would constitute a conflict of interest for her to a part of the discussions. She did advise members however to read the language in the RFP carefully as a guide to their response.

Karlene thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.