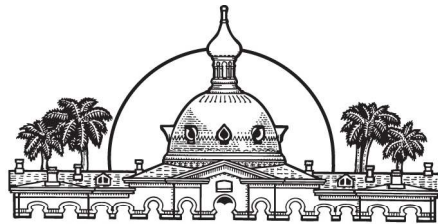


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August 31, 2010

The Honorable Ken Hagan, Chairman
Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners
601 E. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33602

RE: Update on the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women

Dear Chairman Hagan:

I am writing on behalf of the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) to update you and the Board of County Commissioners on our recent activities and future actions.

In November, the COSW conducted a community-wide workshop to receive up-to-date feedback and recommendations on the findings of our comprehensive Women's Health Report. In response, we have crafted the following priority issues:

- Expand access to preventative health services that include screening and health promotion, along with associated transportation services, through expanded use of clinics and Hillsborough County's Health Plan.
- Address the special needs of ethnic minorities and victims of domestic violence.

The COSW respectfully requests the Board's attention to these important concerns. In addition, we are seeking to collaborate with the county's new Family and Aging Services Department on their implementation.

The COSW is reaching out to form partnerships and broaden its scope in an effort to address the most pressing issues women face in these difficult economic times and limited resources. We are currently working with the Florida Commission on the Status of Women on a joint study of the challenges facing the growing population of homeless female veterans, and to develop permanent, effective solutions. The COSW is receiving presentations from Athena House, Hillsborough County Veteran's Services, MacDill AFB, and James Haley Veteran's Hospital. We will keep the Board informed of our ongoing efforts and final actions.

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We are in the early stages of developing a Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame to formally and properly recognize women in our community who have made a significant and positive impact. This lasting legacy will be a proud remembrance of pioneering women of the past, and celebrate the contributions of today's outstanding female leaders. Members of the COSW are reaching out to you, our county commissioners, and other civic leaders to solicit support and feedback. We anticipate bringing forward a comprehensive proposal to the Board for its review and consideration.

In addition, we are exploring the feasibility of hosting the 2011 National Association of Commissions for Women annual conference here in Hillsborough County. This would bring together local and state associations from across the country to our area to share ideas and forge working relationships.

Finally, we are also expanding our webpage on Hillsborough County's website to serve as a central depository of information important to women throughout the community. It is our hope that this will foster additional relationships and heighten awareness of women's needs.

We are pleased to share this brief update, and hope that the Board will continue working with us to implement these and other important measures to improve the quality of life for the women of Hillsborough County. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Carla Bolling
Chairman

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Commission on the Status of Women
Michael S. Merrill, Interim County Administrator
Edith M. Stewart, Public Affairs Administrator
Kelly Sciba, Executive Director, Florida Commission on the Status of Women