



City and County of San Francisco

Commission on the Status of Women

Mayor London N. Breed

San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 | 5:00 PM

San Francisco City Hall, Room 408

COMMISSION ROSTER

Commission President	Sophia Andary
Commission Vice President	Ani Rivera
Commissioner	Sharon Chung
Commissioner	Diane Jones Lowrey
Commissioner	Dr. Shokooh Miry (Excused)
Commissioner	Dr. Anne Moses (Excused)
Commissioner	Dr. Raveena Rihal

I. CALL TO ORDER: *DISCUSSION*

President Sophia Andary called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Dr. Joseph Macaluso performed roll call and confirmed 5 of 7 Commissioners present (quorum). Dr. Macaluso read the land acknowledgement.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *DISCUSSION and ACTION*

The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the regular Commission meeting on August 21, 2024, with a correction to the spelling of Commissioner Diane Jones Lowrey's name on Page 2.

Explanatory document: Draft Minutes from the regular Commission meeting on August 21, 2024.

No Public Comment.

(Roll Call Vote) Rivera/Andary – 5 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous

Note that virtual participants created a disturbance, and the Webex stream was ended.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: *DISCUSSION*

Director Ellis gave a brief highlight of the Director's Report, which included the launch of the new DOSW website. The new site is user-friendly and reflects the Department's commitment to making sure women, girls and non-binary individuals have access to resources and information to support gender equity.

As part of the Department's Bay Area Abortion Rights Coalition (BAARC) initiative, on September 17, the Department published the regional abortion landscape report titled *Preparing for An Uncertain Future in Post-Dobbs America: A Landscape Analysis of Abortion Care in the San Francisco Bay Area*.

The Department and Clarity Research group completed the 2024 Community Needs Assessment, which asked individuals working, living or going to school in San Francisco about their experiences here. We exceeded our target of 700 survey responses, receiving more than 1000 responses. Clarity Research Group will share a draft of the findings with the department in late October.

No Commissioner Comment.

No Public Comment.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISTRIBUTION OF 2024 BAARC REPORT: *DISCUSSION*

Printed copies of the Department's 2024 BAARC report were distributed to Commissioners for their review. At the October Commission meeting, DOSW's report partner, Dr. Nancy Cohen from the Gender Equity Policy Institute, will present on the findings of the analysis.

Commissioner Comment:

Vice President Ani Rivera feels proud to hold it in her hands and looks forward to reading the report.

President Sophia Andary emphasized Ani Rivera's comments, looks forward to reading.

Explanatory Document: Report - *Preparing for An Uncertain Future in Post-Dobbs America: A Landscape Analysis of Abortion Care in the San Francisco Bay Area*

No Public Comment.

B. PRESENTATION FROM LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SF: *DISCUSSION*

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco President, Alison Goh, discussed the organization's background, current initiatives, and topics related to the upcoming election. She explained how LWVSF encourages voter registration and education, specifically among women, Gen Z, millennials, and nonbinary individuals. She highlighted the hosting of 11 candidate forums, 66 Candidate Statements, and 48 Speakers Bureau presentations this election cycle, along with the distribution of ballot measure information.

Additionally, Alison Goh discussed the LWVSF Youth Council, and their project called VR'ing Democracy, which walks users through a virtual voting booth in multiple languages, introduces people to the voting process with an aim to reduce stress and empower voters.

Commissioner Comment:

Commissioner Diane Jones Lowrey was very impressed by an LWVSF event the previous week, and wished there were more people in attendance to communicate with candidates. She mentioned that the Pros & Cons Guide is 1 of 3 guides her husband uses to vote, as it is very balanced and informational.

Commissioner Ani Rivera asked if there is a DEI Strategy. LWVSF President Goh replied that DE&I is included in bylaws, though they must continue to improve and reach more people, especially those not currently represented.

President Andary said she would love to see the VR program integrated with VR headsets. LWVSF President Goh replied that they are working on this idea.

President Andary thanked the League of Women Voters, noting that LWVSF was educating on redistricting before most people understood the practice and ramifications, especially those against our most marginalized communities. She encouraged people to look at the fine print, who is funding propositions, and to push for transparency, civilian oversight, and accountability.

No Public Comment.

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Upton from SF Domestic Violence Consortium noted that it is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and highlighted local events. She also thanked the Department and Department Members who are members of the Domestic Violence Council for their work.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:53pm.