**Durham County Women’s Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 22, 2021**

Commissioners Present: Vivian Slade, Milicia Tedder, Kirstyn Allen, Sara Bausch, Cynthia Bland, Laura Meyers, Patti Black, Aquaris Anderson, Jenny Gomez, Tamika McRae, Cheryl Ann Welsh, Patrice High, Lucia Ferejohn

Commissioners Excused: Ruebe Holmes, Brianna Van Stekelenburg

Commissioners Absent: K.D. Ann Welsh

Commission Guests: Monica Daye, Founder of Stand Up/Speak Out (SUSO)

**Welcome- Vivian Slade, Chair**

Vivian called the meeting to order with a welcomed our guest.

**Chair Report- Vivian Slade**

Durham County Women’s Commission proposed by-laws changes and updates were approved by Durham County Commissioners during their regular session on February 8. The By-Laws will be changed and newly issued in a few weeks.

Vivian sent out a doodle poll for the Mayor’s Council for Women meeting, but the proposed dates will need to be shifted, be on the look out for new poll soon.

**Vice Chair Report- Jenny**

Jenny shared that the website is looking good. Shauna/UNC grant funds have paid for the site for 5 years. Our next steps are to decide on a url; please send any ideas to Jenny and she can create a poll. A draft of the website will potentially be ready to be presented at our March meeting.

Headshots are due to Vivian by Friday, 2/26.

**Treasurer’s Report- Patti**

Will be sent via email due to special presentations at meeting.

**Committee Updates**

* Black Maternal Health (Joy, Tamika, Lucia) update: Joy reported the committee have been working on the results of the survey and shared the presentation on the current Black Maternal Health Crisis, including even further negative impacts due to the pandemic, as highlighted by Lucia. The presentation will be shared to all Women’s Commission Members.

Joy noted thanks to Cynthia for statistical support of survey results.

Joy reported 100% of responding organizations reported that they are taking specific steps to address Black Maternal Health through policy, advocacy, awareness, and direct service. How can we support the efforts of the organizations? Funding and policy change top the list. 100% of responding organizations reported interest in collaboration and partnerships, meaning we are poised to help with this issue.

Tamika also highlights H.E.A.R.T.S., a Durham organization that helped share the story of 17 year old Jazmir Taylor, a Black mother who died just one week after delivering her son at Duke Regional Hospital in September 2020.

Next steps? Resolution in April, and panel discussion this Spring.

* Social Justice Committee (Aquaris, Cynthia, Patti) update: Aquaris shared that RTP/Durham has an education model focused on underserved and primarily minority students in grades 9-14 (two-years post high school). The program helps build STEM skills and is about 10 years old. IBM has committed to hiring 1000 interns for 2021, typically that number is around 150, and a large portion of those 6-week positions will be RTP based. Committee is still working on ways to reach individuals who are already working and will update soon.
* Steering Committee (Cheryl Ann, Patrice, Laura, Kirstyn, Lucia): Cheryl Ann sent dates of upcoming County meetings to Committee members, and the Committee will rotate attendance and share 2-3 quick facts from County Commissioner meetings.
* Communications Committee (Ruebe and Milicia) update: will be emailed to save time.

**Approve January meeting minutes**

Meeting minutes approval will be done via email to maximize meeting time.

**Guest Presentation:**

**Monica Daye, Stand Up/Speak Out (SUSO)**

Monica founded SUSO at 17 years old, and as she presented the history says it all began with a poem. Monica shared her powerful story and the impacts SUSO is having on our community.

**Announcements:**

Cynthia is organizing a career fair for the statistical field, if interested she can share details.

Nugget (family play couch company) is highlighting Black Maternal Health and Equity Before Birth this month!

Vivian closed the meeting.