



City and County of San Francisco

# Commission on the Status of Women

*Mayor London N. Breed*

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

5:00 pm

San Francisco City Hall, Room 408

### Roster:

*President Dr. Shokooh Miry*

*Vice President Sophia Andary*

*Commissioner Sharon Chung (excused)*

*Commissioner Dr. Anne Moses*

*Commissioner Dr. Raveena Rihal*

*Commissioner Ani Rivera (excused)*

*Note: The Commission will hear public comment on each item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.*

### I. CALL TO ORDER

**President Shokooh Miry called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.** Mr. Cameron Lucas performed roll call, confirmed 4 of 7 Commissioners present (quorum). Mr. Lucas read the land acknowledgement.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission reviewed and approved minutes from the regular Commission meeting on November 9, 2023.

**No public comment.**

**(Roll Call Vote) Andary/Rihal – 4 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous**

### III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Kimberly Ellis discussed staffing changes.

Director Ellis also discussed the fiscal state of the Department following the directives in October from the Mayor's Budget Office and stated that the Department's baseline contracts with grantees will remain unaffected.

The Department continues to build out its policy portfolio and will focus on the following policies at various levels: free period products in City and County of San Francisco restrooms at the local level, supporting the enforcement of Senate Bill 462 – the pay transparency law at the state level, and supporting national paid family leave and student debt forgiveness at the federal level.

The Department continues its work with Clarity Research Group to produce a Community Needs Assessment to identify service gaps faced by women, girls and nonbinary people in San Francisco.

**No Public Comment.**

**No Commissioner Comment.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION REQUIREMENT WAIVER REQUEST FOR IGNITE NATIONAL**

Director Ellis presented the competitive solicitation requirement waiver request for IGNITE National.

**No public comment.**

**Commissioner Comment:**

President Miry asked about the budget for last fiscal year's Summit and about general information on hosting an event in the city of San Francisco.

Vice President Andary commented on the challenges of approving a resolution for such a high-ticket item and stated that she would like to see the Policy Summit have more workshops and hands-on events.

Commissioner Rihal asked if there was a similar competitive solicitation requirement waiver that they voted on last year for the Policy Summit.

**(Roll Call Vote) Rihal/Andary – 4 ayes, 0 nays – Unanimous**

**b. PRESENTATION ON INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACCESS**

Dr. Sophia Yen presented on the work of Pandia Health – an online birth control delivery company.

Speakers: Dr. Sophia Yen, Founder and CEO of Pandia Health

**Public Comment:**

Emberly Cross from the Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic (CROC) thanked Dr. Yen for her presentation and the Commission for having this presentation.

**Commissioner Comment:**

President Miry thanked Dr. Yen for her presentation and how important it is for the Commission to spread such research. President Miry asked about the policies for minors trying to access birth control, commented on the possibility of placing informational signs in restrooms.

Dr. Moses commented on the effectiveness of Pandia Health and how it helps young people own their health. Dr. Rihal inquired about the name of Pandia Health.

Vice President Andary thanked Dr. Yen for her presentation and spoke about her personal experience with reproductive health.

President Miry commented that this presentation would be great to share on social media.

## **V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Beverly Upton thanked Dr. Yen for her presentation and mourned the murder of Kimberly Wong. The importance of services such as crisis lines was also noted.

Emberly Cross shared a success story of a woman who had faced years of abuse, noting that the survivor successfully obtained a restraining order with the help of CROC's services.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

President Miry shared gratitude for the Department staff in the light of the news from Texas. Vice President Andary ended the meeting in honor of Kimberly Wong with the following remarks:

"I would like to end today's meeting in memory of Kimberly Wong. Kimberly Wong was a 27-year-old Presidio Heights, San Francisco resident who was senselessly murdered on November 30th by her boyfriend who has now been charged with domestic violence homicide.

Kimberly Wong graduated from the University of Washington's Human Centered Design and Engineering program in 2018. While studying, she led the Society of Women Engineers and Women in User Experience student organizations. Ms. Wong worked as a product designer in the Bay Area. She loved creating illustrations, doing crosswords, cooking, playing piano, doing yoga, and being outdoors.

I want to extend my condolences to her family and friends.

This is a reminder of how important and much needed our work is at the Department on the Status of Women and from our allied organizations. "

Meeting Adjourned at **6:23pm**.