

State Commission on Fatherhood

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Lieutenant Governor's Meeting Room, Hawai'i State Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bernard Carvalho, Merton Chinen, Greg Farstrup, Michael Kramer, Steven Nakaoka, Henry Oliva, Marika Ripke, Russell Suzuki, Sylvia Yuen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandy Baz, Calvin Chinen, Loretta Fuddy, Clayton Fujie

GUESTS: Chris Letham, Tom Marzec

1. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Greg Farstrup at 10:10 a.m. with a quorum of 6 voting members.

2. APRIL 27, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

ACTION: The April 27, 2005 minutes were approved (Yuen / Ripke; unanimous).

3. MAY 25, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

The May 25, 2005 meeting minutes were discussed.

4. SCF MEMBERS VACANCY – SCF still needs to fill Andy Baclig's position (Hilo). Mike Dias has been asked to fill out the online application. Russell will continue trying to get someone from the judiciary/family court to attend SCF meetings.

5. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SB 1780 which extends the State Commission on Fatherhood's sunset date to June 30, 2007 and transferring it to the Dept. of Human Services for administrative purposes was passed (without funding).

6. SCF BUDGET – The Commissioners briefly discussed how the Commission's travel needs and other work will proceed without funding. It was agreed that we need to strategize in preparation for next year. Michael Kramer and Farstrup will head this planning initiative. It was decided that each subcommittee will meet before the July SCF meeting and discuss which activities they can do without funding, and how much monies are needed to complete the other activities initially proposed in their strategic plans. They will submit these budgets via email to Michael Kramer by Friday, July 22, 2005. We will get the budget directives from DHS and submit our proposal through DHS. We should create a job position description, budget, etc. so that we can be funded for more than simply travel expenses. We should request the Commission on the Status of Women's budget (\$97,000) to serve as a guide.

7. STRATEGIC PLANNING

- a. SCF and CSW partnership—It was agreed that the SCF needs to build partnerships/align with Commission on the Status of Women. It would be beneficial to present the SCF and CSW as “two peas in a pod,” and come up with a common agenda. Russell Suzuki suggested we look into actually having a physical presence in their office (e.g., desk/phone). It was suggested that when the new ED for the CSW is hired, we invite her to one of our SCF meetings. Farstrup will contact the Chair of the CSW and invite to our meeting. Ripke will contact Carol Phillips from the CSW.
- b. Garnering Support—We need to meet with legislators to garner support (and not only those already supportive of the Commission). We need to garner outer island publicity/support. Commissioners should identify legislators in their area that could champion support in addition to our existing core supporters (e.g., Senators Kanno and Chun-Oakland). Making face-to-face appointments with legislators was proposed, including the possibility of a legislative mini-breakfast.

- c. Child/Youth Day and Keiki Caucus—Ripke will forward Kramer information about Children and Youth Day (October 2, 2005). It was suggested that the SCF have a presence at this event. It was also proposed that the SCF give a presentation at the Keiki Caucus. Ripke will contact Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland's office about this.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Public Info & Ed (Ripke, Yuen) – The SCF's website was discussed. Chris Letham (guest) offered to help. He and Henry Oliva will be in touch regarding the capabilities of the DHS website, and who Letham can speak to about web capabilities/parameters. Ripke will contact Chet Adessa regarding his contact of a pro bono web site developer. Ripke will also contact Jesse Lipman regarding the Speaker's Roster and Directory/Bulletin of Fatherhood Resources.
- b. Policy & Practice (Farstrup, Kramer, Suzuki) – Nothing new to report.
- c. PR & Promotion (Carvalho, Fujie, Nakaoka) – Nothing new to report.
- d. Recognition/Events (Oliva, Chinen) – Oliva and Chinen will meet to further discuss the logistics of the Family-Friendly Business Awards (SCR 130-03). They will look into possibility of combining the presentation of the award with the October Children and Youth Month Awards event that Sen. Chun-Oakland and Rep. Dennis Arakaki coordinate.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS

- a. Schedule – NEW MEETING DAY. It was decided that future SCF meetings will be held the last Tuesday of every month until further notice. The next meeting is Tuesday, July 26th from 10 a.m. to Noon. The meeting in August is Tuesday, August 30th from 10 a.m. to Noon.
- b. Place – Future meetings will be held in the Lt. Governor's office.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – The guests plan to continue their participation in efforts to improve Family Court. Chris Letham informed the Commission that they will be working on fine tuning bills/legislation in August and plan to complete revisions by December. They announced that on July 29th, from 9-11, Judge Francis Wong will be meeting with the SR40 Task Force in Room 229; they will be giving testimony and following up on previously discussed legislation issues. They also discussed making a legal complaint requesting equal funding for the SCF (i.e., as the CSW receives), similar to Title IX. It was agreed that the SCF would first pursue more aggressively other funding opportunities before the guests would pursue this type of action.

9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at Noon (Yuen / Nakaoka; unanimous).

Submitted by: Marika Ripke, Recording Secretary
Date Submitted: July 8, 2005

Approved by: State Commission on Fatherhood
Date Approved: July 26, 2005