

# FORT COLLINS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

## 1997 WORK PLAN

December 2, 1996

### INTRODUCTION:

The Fort Collins Commission on the Status of Women is in the final phases of completing a research study project on the economic condition of women in Fort Collins. The Commission started discussing this project in 1995, developed the statistical method and collected the data in 1996, and will be finishing the analyzes of the data and writing the reports in 1997. As a result of this 18 month project, the Commission has started forming alliances with Colorado State University's Institute for Women & Leadership, Larimer County Women's Network, and the Women's Economic Development Council. The Commission anticipates using 1997 to prioritize issues identified in our research and work with these organizations to develop action plans and outcomes for the City of Fort Collins and the greater northern Colorado region. Through this collaborative work, the Commission will need to devote time and energy in 1997 to develop an agenda which will help us proceed over the next several years with our work. In addition, the Commission will continue to sponsor two historical activities which will include spotlighting Women's History Month and Women's Equality Day.

### COMMISSION ACTIVITIES:

The Commission on the Status of Women's 10 Year Anniversary Study: A Report to City Council - The purpose of the follow-up research study was to:

- Gather and document current information regarding critical issues to the economic status and opportunities for women in our community.
- Compile the data into a technical report that will contain specific recommendations to the City of Fort Collins.
- Create an opportunity for the community to become involved in the critical issues by providing private industry, non-profit agencies, businesses, and citizens with a copy of the technical report, thus, providing opportunities to work collectively and collaboratively to make Fort Collins a better place to work and live.
- Use the data and recommendations as mechanisms to shape the Commission's agenda for the next several years.

The Commission's timeline for the completion of this project has been revised due to the complexity of the data and the desire to create a technical report that will be best utilized by the community. Given our goal to reach a broad audience, many hours have been spent in planning the format and lay-out of the report to ensure it is readable, credible, and understandable. The Commission's proposed timeline is as follows, although, minor adjustments may be needed.

- December: Work on education and training data.
- January: Work on transportation and childcare data.
- February: Work on health / mental health and housing data.
- March: End focus groups and complete loose ends on any of the seven topical issues. Create sub-committee to develop media campaign. Complete the collection of personal stories for the technical report.

- April: Review the recommendations and draft of the technical report, make revisions, finalize both the technical report (short form) and the study report (long form).
- May: Coordinate with a vendor to copy, collate, and bind the reports.
- June: Present the report to City Council. Implement media campaign.
- July: Mail reports to consumers in the community.

Women's History Month Essay Contest - The Commission will sponsor an essay contest for junior high students. A sub-committee will continue to work with Poudre School District (PSD) with the coordination of the contest packets in early January. Student entries will be reviewed and selected in March. The contest winners will be honored at a City Council meeting and presented with certificates and monetary awards. The Fort Collins Coloradoan will be notified of the winning essays and encouraged to publish the student's essays in recognition and support of Women's History Month.

In accordance with Women's History Month, a sub-committee will collaborate with Colorado State University's Institute for Women & Leadership, the Larimer County Women's Network, and Women's Economic Development Council to coordinate with the local newspapers to determine the feasibility of creating a series of articles pertaining to the economic status of women in our community, based on the research collected by the women's organizations named above.

Marcile N. Wood Award - The Commission will sponsor the award the Marcile N. Wood award for an outstanding woman in the community who has demonstrated innovation and made considerable contributions to the community. A sub-committee will send out applications, review applications, and make a selection by July. In accordance with Women's Equality Day (August) the award winner, along with friends and family, will be honored with a small and informal reception at City Hall. When City Council convenes for their regularly scheduled meeting, the winner will be recognized and presented with a certificate and plaque.

Community Liaisons - The Commission has determined 1997 as a critical time to collaborate with other women's organizations in the community. Three organizations, previously mentioned, have been identified and three representatives from the Commission will be asked to serve in the capacity of community liaisons. The purpose of this activity is as follows:

- Coordinate with organizations to eliminate duplication of efforts in the community.
- Negotiate with organizations regarding the priorities of the community
- Increase people's ability to communicate and provide feedback in a more timely fashion.
- Develop action plans that are supported by other organizations.
- Build relationships so alliances can be formed.

Human Relations Commission Liaison - The Commission will continue to have a representative attend the HRC's monthly meetings for the purpose of updating the Commission on their activities and to be able to support the HRC in an appropriate manner.

Relationship with Human Rights Officer - The Commission recognizes the transition with staff services and will be using 1997 to work with the Human Rights Officer regarding the Commission's mission, history, and activities. The Commission looks forward to developing a partnership with the City's Human Rights Office and interfacing on projects and issues concerning the City and the community.