

## Fort Collins Commission on the Status of Women

### 1994 WORK PLAN

#### INTRODUCTION

The Commission on the Status of Women will continue to focus efforts toward addressing the needs of women in the community in ways that are visible, credible, and relevant. A number of activities that have historically been sponsored by the Commission over the years will continue in 1994. This report outlines planned activities of the Commission as a whole, as well as activities involving a variety of task forces and individuals in liaison roles.

It is important to note that the Commission currently has two vacancies that will be filled by Council in early December. Current members have planned a Commission retreat for the latter part of January, following the appointment of new members. This work plan may be modified to some degree based on input obtained from both existing members and new members during the scheduled retreat. A revised work plan will be forwarded to Council in the event substantial changes are made.

#### ONGOING/ANNUAL COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

##### **Women's History Month Essay Contest**

The Commission will again sponsor an essay contest for junior high students focusing on the topic of "Women in Your Own History." Distribution of invitations to participate will be coordinated through Poudre R-1 in early January. Entries are typically reviewed in early March, with winning essays published in The Triangle Review later in the month. Contest winners also are presented certificates and monetary awards at a subsequent Council meeting.

##### **Boards and Commissions Workshop**

The Commission plans to host the annual Boards & Commission's Workshop in March or April. The purpose of the workshop is to provide information and create citizen interest in serving on both City and County boards and commissions. A variety of formats and communication methods will be evaluated in an attempt to increase the workshop's effectiveness in encouraging persons of diverse ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds to apply for board and commission vacancies.

### **Women's Celebration Activities**

The Task Force on Women's Celebrations will continue ongoing efforts to participate in and publicize events celebrating women. Events for 1994 will include Women's History Month (February); Women's Equality Day (August); and presentation of the Marcile N. Wood Award in recognition of contributions that have positively impacted the status of women in the Fort Collins community.

### **Women's/Pace Articles**

The Commission will continue to sponsor articles for publication in The Triangle Review. This forum has historically been utilized by the Commission to share knowledge, information, and opinions regarding projects and issues of relevance and importance to women. Commission members will evaluate ways to enhance the use of Women's/Pace as an efficient and effective communication tool. This will include exploring cooperative efforts with other community organizations concerned with women's issues.

## **SCHEDULED TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES**

### **Task Force on Racism**

The Task Force on Racism will formally request that the final report from last year's community-wide Cultural Diversity Task Force be made available in Spanish. Members will review the City's Diversity Plan and provide ongoing feedback on the City's progress. The Commission will continue to support efforts of the Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee, including completion of an oral history project documenting the contributions of Hispanic citizens to the Fort Collins community.

### **Task Force on Sexual Harassment**

The Task Force on Sexual Harassment will finalize suggested criteria for an effective sexual harassment policy and guidelines for implementation. These criteria and guidelines will be distributed to public sector agencies, local businesses, and non-profit organizations that responded to a written survey on sexual harassment policies previously conducted by the Task Force. In addition, these suggested policies and guidelines may also be made available to businesses and organizations through other avenues, i.e. a conference, forum, or workshop sponsored by the Commission.

### **Additional Task Forces**

Additional task forces may be formed to address a number of relevant issues and concerns impacting women, including the areas of Domestic Violence, Economic Equity, Affordable Housing, and Health Care.

The Commission will also remain flexible in modifying priorities to best address issues and needs of women in the community that may not have been anticipated at the time the work plan was drafted.

### **LIAISON ACTIVITIES**

#### **Liaison on Youth Issues**

The Commission will formally authorize a Commission member(s) to serve as a Liaison on Youth Issues. For a number of years, the Commission has had an informal liaison in this area. While the Commission does not currently have specific projects and activities centered on youth issues, we recognize their importance to the community and relevance to women. The Liaison will be responsible for keeping the Commission informed of new and existing developments regarding youth issues in the community.

#### **Liaison on Sex/Health Education Curriculum**

The Commission will also be formally recognizing a Commission member(s) to serve as a Liaison on Sex/Health Education Curriculum in the Poudre R-1 School District. For a number of years, the Commission has also had informal liaisons monitoring these issues. The Liaison(s) will be responsible for monitoring activities and keeping the Commission up to date in this area.