



# A G E N D A

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS (OC SWAG)

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 11:00 A.M.

County Administration North  
First Floor, Multi-Purpose Room  
400 West Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701

### COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Katelyn Brazer Aceves, Chair  
*2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative*

Christine Marick, Vice Chair  
*4<sup>th</sup> District Representative*

Maribel Sevilla  
*1<sup>st</sup> District Representative*

Jennifer Beall  
*3<sup>rd</sup> District Representative*

Joanna Weiss  
*5<sup>th</sup> District Representative*

Laura Ramos  
*At Large Representative*

Crystal Miles  
*At Large Representative*

**County Executive Office Liaison**  
Liz Guillen Merchant

**Clerk of the Commission**  
Valerie Sanchez

**Health Care Agency Liaison**  
Brandy Miller

**Social Services Agency Liaison**  
Dr. Sara Marchese

**OC Community Resources Liaison**  
Mary Beth Anderson

*This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Commission encourages public participation. If you wish to speak on any item or during public comment, please complete a Speaker Request Form and place in the box next to the Clerk. Speaker Forms are located next to the entrance doors. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name (or pseudonym) for the record prior to providing your comments.*

**\*\*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and County Language Access Policy, those requiring accommodation and/or interpreter services for this meeting should notify the Clerk of the Board's Office 72 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 834-2206. Requests received less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will still receive every effort to reasonably fulfill within the time provided\*\***

# A G E N D A

*All supporting documentation is available for public review online at:  
<https://cob.ocgov.com/boards-commissions-committees/orange-county-commission-status-women-and-girls>  
and with Clerk of the Board of Supervisors located in the County Administration North Building,  
400 West Civic Center Drive, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Santa Ana, California 92701  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday*

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*At this time members of the public may address the Commission on any matter on the agenda or within the subject matter of the commission.*

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Approve minutes of the November 7, 2024 regular meeting of the Commission.  
*(Continued from 12/5/24, Item 1)*
2. Approve minutes of the December 5, 2024 regular meeting of the Commission.
3. Establish and adopt a 2025 meeting schedule calendar.  
*(Continued from 12/5/2024, Item 4)*
4. Approve proposed amendments to the Commission's Bylaws for submission to the Board of Supervisors for final approval and adoption.
5. Discuss data requested and focus areas to be included in the first annual report on the Status of Women and Girls in Orange County.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS & ROUNDTABLE**

*At this time Commissioners may discuss ideas and request topics for future agenda items, make requests or provide direction to staff, and make comments or announcements regarding matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission, provided that no action will be taken on any matter not appearing on the agenda, except as otherwise provided by law.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** To be determined

# Agenda Item 1



# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 11:00 A.M.

County Administration North  
First Floor, Multi-Purpose Room  
400 West Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Katelyn Brazer Aceves, Chair**  
*2nd District Representative*

**Christine Marick, Vice Chair**  
*4<sup>th</sup> District Representative*

**Jennifer Beall**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> District Representative*

**Laura Ramos**  
*At Large Representative*

**Health Care Agency Liaison**  
Brandy Miller

**Maribel Sevilla**  
*1st District Representative*

**Joanne Weiss**  
*5<sup>th</sup> District Representative*

**Crystal Miles**  
*At Large Representative*

**Clerk of the Commission**  
Valerie Sanchez

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Brazer Aceves, Beall, Miles, Ramos and Weiss

ABSENT: Commissioners Marick and Sevilla

### CALL TO ORDER

The chair called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Brazer Aceves led the pledge of allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and confirmed quorum.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation by Girls Inc. of Orange County on areas of need they have identified for Women and Girls in Orange County  
**Dr. Emerald Archer, Chief Program Officer at Girls Inc. of Orange County, gave a presentation titled "Challenges Women & Girls Face in California and Orange County" including economic and wage gap, education, business, physical health, mental health and caregiving challenges**

## ACTION ITEMS

2. Approve minutes of the October 3, 2024 regular meeting of the Commission  
**On the motion of Commissioner Miles, seconded by Commissioner Ramos, with Commissioner Weiss abstaining, the Commission approved the minutes of the October 3, 2024 meeting as recommended.**

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Discuss data analytics and the annual report to the Board of Supervisors with discussion facilitated by the Interim County Executive Officer and/or her designee  
**Interim County Executive Officer Michelle Aguirre and Data Analytics Senior Manager Chrislyn Nefas-Ferencz presented "Women of Orange County 2024" sample report showing the kind of demographic and economic data that can be obtained from various sources and presented through infographics, tables and text in a report for the commission. Discussion continued to December 4, 2024.**
4. Discuss establishment of core principles and values and the development of a Mission Statement and Vision Statement for the Commission  
**Continued to December 5, 2024**

## COMMISSIONER COMMENTS & ROUNDTABLE

Crystal Miles – Expressed concerns that the bylaw changes approved by the Commission were delayed in their submission to the Board of Supervisors for approval without notifying the Commissioners. Interim CEO Michelle Aguirre explained that she asked the Vice-Chairman to pause the bylaw amendments so she could come and meet with the Commission first to discuss whether there should be additional changes now that staffing support by the County had been expanded, and so that all proposed changes could go to the Board of Supervisors in one single submission.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:34 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: December 5, 2024

# Agenda Item 2



# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Thursday, December 5, 2024, 11:00 A.M.

County Administration North  
First Floor, Multi-Purpose Room  
400 West Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Katelyn Brazer Aceves, Chair**  
*2nd District Representative*

**Christine Marick, Vice Chair**  
*4<sup>th</sup> District Representative*

**Jennifer Beall**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> District Representative*

**Laura Ramos**  
*At Large Representative*

**County Executive Office Liaison**  
Liz Guillen-Merchant

**Health Care Agency Liaison**  
Brandy Miller

**Social Services Agency Liaison**  
Dr. Sara Marchese

**OC Community Resources Liaison**  
Mary Beth Anderson

**Maribel Sevilla**  
*1st District Representative*

**Joanne Weiss**  
*5<sup>th</sup> District Representative*

**Crystal Miles**  
*At Large Representative*

**Clerk of the Commission**  
Valerie Sanchez

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Marick, Miles, Ramos and Sevilla

ABSENT: Commissioners Beall, Brazer Acevez and Weiss

### CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Miles led the pledge of allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and confirmed quorum.

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Al Jabbar, Chief-of-Staff for Supervisor Doug Chaffee, clarified potential miscommunication regarding bylaws delay; the intent was not a delay due to content of the bylaws but to work out procedural issues on bylaw standards; he said Supervisor Chaffee values the independence and the work of the Commission and also wanted to clarify that the Supervisor does not want to be involved in the decision making process of the Commission or in any of the ideas that come out of the Commission.

## ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve minutes of the November 7, 2024 regular meeting of the Commission  
**On the motion of Commissioner Miles, seconded by Commissioner Ramos, the Commission voted to continue approval of the minutes to the next meeting to revise the minutes to include additional summary information related to discussion of bylaws amendments.**
2. Discuss establishment of core principles and values and the development of a Mission Statement and Vision Statement for the Commission  
**The Commission discussed core principles and values to be included and propose the following mission statement, vision statement and mandates be incorporated into the bylaws amendments and to bring the bylaws amendments back at the Commission's January meeting for approval and subsequent submission to the Board of Supervisors for final approval and adoption.**

### MISSION STATEMENT

Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors to foster the advancement and improve the lives of women and girls in Orange County

### VISION STATEMENT

The Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls will advocate for the lives and wellbeing of women and girls through building strong collaboration, sharing and utilizing available resources, as well as educating and empowering the community on key issues affecting the wellbeing of women and girls in Orange County.

### MANDATE

Prepare reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on critical areas affecting women and girls, especially those with the greatest needs, including but not limited to areas such as:

- Discrimination
- Affordable Housing
- Child and Dependent Care



## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

- Mental Health
  - Healthcare
  - Violence and Domestic Abuse
  - Financial Security
  - Education
  - Leadership and Representation
3. Discuss data analytics and the annual report to the Board of Supervisors  
**Data Analytics Senior Manager Chrislyn Nefas-Ferencz presented “Women of Orange County 2024” PowerPoint including demographic data that can be used to inform the Commission’s annual report and with the critical areas identified during discussion of agenda item 2, can begin to focus on data specifically related to those areas**
4. Establish and adopt a 2025 meeting schedule calendar  
**Continued to special meeting, date to be determined**

### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS & ROUNDTABLE

ADJOURNMENT: 12:45 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: TBD

# Agenda Item 3



## Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Staff Report

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: December 5, 2024

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Establish and adopt a 2025 meeting schedule calendar

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

When the Commission was created, the County selected the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. to be the initial meeting schedule. During the first meeting in September, the Commission decided to keep the same meeting schedule for the balance of 2024, and in December, when adopting the meeting schedule for 2025, to reconsider the frequency, weekday and time to hold Commission meetings due to potential conflicts for some members.

The Commission may choose to keep the existing meeting schedule on the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m., or the Commission may choose to make changes to the frequency of meetings, day of the week and time of day meetings are held.

Note: If possible, avoid Tuesdays to avoid conflict with Board of Supervisors meetings and avoid the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month to avoid conflicts with other Boards, Commissions and Committees clerked by your Clerk of the Board team.

ATTACHMENT(S): Blank OC SWAG 2025 Calendar

# COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS 2025

| January |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su      | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|         |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5       | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12      | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19      | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26      | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| February |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 9        | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16       | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23       | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |    |

| March |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su    | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|       |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2     | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9     | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16    | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23    | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30    | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| April |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 6     | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13    | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20    | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27    | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

| May |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 18  | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| June |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 22   | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
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| July |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 13   | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20   | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27   | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |


| August |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 10     | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17     | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24     | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31     |    |    |    |    |    |    |


| September |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|           | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7         | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14        | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21        | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28        | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

| October |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su      | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
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| 12      | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19      | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26      | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| November |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 9        | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16       | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23       | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30       |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| December |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su       | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|          | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7        | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14       | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21       | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28       | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

 County Holiday

 Regular Meeting

# Agenda Item 4

**BYLAWS OF THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**ARTICLE I. Name of Organization**

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, hereinafter referred to as "Commission."
- B. The official location and mailing address of the Commission shall be:

County Administration North  
Attn: Clerk of the Board  
400 W. Civic Center Drive, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Ana, California 92701

**ARTICLE II. Establishment of Commission**

The members of the Commission are appointed by the Orange County ("County") Board of Supervisors ("Board") pursuant to Board Resolution No. 24-028 dated March 12, 2024.

**ARTICLE III. ~~Purpose and Functions~~ Mission and Vision Statements and Mandate**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors to foster the advancement and improve the lives of women and girls in Orange County.

**VISION STATEMENT**

The Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls will advocate for the lives and wellbeing of women and girls through building strong collaboration, sharing and utilizing available resources, as well as educating and empowering the community on key issues affecting the wellbeing of women and girls in Orange County.

**MANDATE**

Prepare reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on critical areas affecting women and girls, especially those with the greatest needs, including but not limited to areas such as:

- Discrimination
- Affordable Housing
- Child and Dependent Care
- Mental Health
- Healthcare
- Violence and Domestic Abuse
- Financial Security
- Education
- Leadership and Representation

A. ~~The purpose of the Commission is to work with the County to:~~

~~Monitor the status of women and girls within the County by gathering information in order to evaluate and address the unique issues and concerns impacting this population in our community and to promote gender equity and empowerment of all women and girls.~~

B. In accordance with Board Resolution No. 24-028 the functions of the Commission are as follows:

1. Conduct comprehensive research and analysis into the status of women and girls in the County, and present findings in an annual report to the Board and public ~~by the end of in March of February~~ each year.
2. Provide ongoing advisory support to the Board by presenting regular reports and updates on the progress and outcomes of initiatives undertaken by the Commission.

**Commented [SV1]:** March was selected to present the annual report to the Board of Supervisors to coincide with Women's History Month

#### ARTICLE IV. Appointment and Membership

A. Membership of the Commission is to be composed as follows:

1. There shall be ~~seven (7)~~thirteen (13) members that comprise the Commission.
  - a. ~~Five (5)~~Ten (10) members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Board with each Supervisorial District ~~appointing nominating one two~~ members.
  - ~~b.2.~~ Two-Three members of the Commission are designated "at-large members" and shall be appointed by the Board.
- ~~2.~~ All ~~seven (7)~~thirteen (13) members are voting members.

3. ~~Each member may designate an alternate to serve in the absence of the appointed member to attend meetings on their behalf and vote on any action item. Members shall notify the Chairperson and the Clerk when the alternate will attend on their behalf. Alternates are to be approved by the board.~~

Proposed language for #3- The Board may select up to six alternates, one for each Supervisorial District and one at large, to serve in the absence of an appointed member from the district or at large, respectively, at a meeting. Members shall notify the Chairperson and the Clerk when an alternate may need to attend on their behalf.

**Commented [SV2]:** For Article IV, the County is proposing the option to either increase the membership to thirteen members without alternates; OR to keep the membership at 7 members with (1) one Board appointed alternate for each district and one At-Large alternate, because having 13 members with 13 alternates is not ideal. Either option will provide the flexibility needed to meet quorum in the event commissioners are unable to attend. County Counsel provides some proposed language to replace Article IV (3) if the option with alternates is selected.

**Commented [LG3]:** Proposed language from CoCo

B. Qualifications for Commission Membership

1. The following criteria will be used for all membership appointments:
  - a. Residency and Voting Requirements: Except where the Board finds it is in the best interest of the County to waive voter and residency requirements, all members of the Commission shall be:
    - i. Registered voters in the County; and,
    - ii. Reside in the district of the nominating member of the Board unless the Supervisor representing the district where the nominee resides provides written consent for the nomination.

C. Length of Commission Membership

1. All regular Commission member appointments shall be for a term concurrent with the term of office of the nominating member of the Board. A member of the Commission whose term of office is expiring with that of the nominating Supervisor shall have the option of reapplying for membership for appointment.
2. All at-large Commission member appointments shall be for a period of two years, subject to Article IV(B)(1)(a)(ii). ~~The Board may shall have the option to reappoint the at-large Commission member for anone (1) additional term.~~
3. Appointments made to fill a vacancy left by a member before the expiration of the term of that member shall be for the remaining term of that member.
4. Pursuant to Government Code section 1302, a member whose term has expired shall continue serving as a member until reappointed or replaced.

**ARTICLE V. Commission Officers**

A. Commission officers shall consist of:

1. A Chairperson and Vice Chairperson each of whom shall be selected by members of the Commission.
2. The Chairperson shall preside at meetings, call special meetings, decide points of order, announce all business, entertain motions, put motions to vote, announce vote results, appoint and may remove committee Chairpersons, represent the Commission at public functions.
3. The Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence. If the Chair becomes vacant, the Vice Chairperson shall succeed to the Chair for the balance of the term of office.
4. Terms for officers of the Commission shall be for one year.



5. No person, except a member of the Board, may serve as Chairperson of the Commission for more than three consecutive terms.
6. No person, except a member of the Board, may serve simultaneously as Chairperson for two or more Boards, Commissions, or Committees.
7. Election of officers shall be held annually during the last Commission meeting of each calendar year by majority vote, a quorum being present.

**ARTICLE VI. Duties of Members**

- A. Members shall attend meetings of the Commission and of committees to which they are appointed. The Executive Committee shall regularly review member attendance at Commission and committee meetings.
- B. Members shall notify the Chairperson of the Commission of any expected absence for a meeting by 5:00 p.m. of the day before a regularly scheduled Commission meeting, indicating good and sufficient reasons for the absence.
- C. In the performance of its responsibilities, the Commission shall not engage in nor employ any unlawfully discriminatory practices in the provision of services or benefits, assignment of accommodations, treatment, employment of personnel or in any other respect on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, marital status, medical condition, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or any other protected group in accordance with the requirements of all applicable County, state, or federal laws.
- D. Members of the Commission shall comply with the County Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti- Harassment Policy and Procedures.
- E. Members of the Commission shall comply with County Code of Ethics.
- F. Members of the Commission shall operate strictly within designated purposes of the Commission.

**ARTICLE VII. Committees and Subcommittees**

- A. There shall be ~~an standing~~ Executive Committee comprised of:
  1. The Chairperson of the Commission,
  2. Vice Chairperson of the Commission, and
  3. One (1) member of the commission selected by the Chairperson.

The Executive Committee shall hold meetings at the request of the Chairperson. The Executive Committee shall review the Commission Bylaws and suggest amendments to the Commission in accordance with Article XIII below.

- ~~B. Standing Committees: The Commission shall have one (1) standing committee:~~

**Commented [SV4]:** Suggesting to remove the section on Standing Committees because Executive Committees are standing committees under Brown Act, so it is repetitive to state it twice. County Counsel agrees that (A) and (B) can be combined.

~~1. Executive Committee~~

~~Terms of appointment to standing committees shall be for one year.~~

~~C.B.~~ Ad Hoc Committees: The Chairperson may establish ad hoc committees of less than a quorum of the Commission's membership to accomplish time-limited tasks that support the goals of the Commission.

Terms of appointment for ad hoc committees shall be solely for the period of time required to fulfill the ad hoc committee's purpose.

~~D.C.~~ When appropriate, committees may call on other knowledgeable individuals who are not Commission members to act as consultants to the committees. Said individuals shall be subject to the conflict-of-interest statutes, regulations, ordinances, bylaws and guidelines.

**ARTICLE VIII. Meetings and Actions**

- A. The Commission shall, at its ~~first-last~~ meeting of each year, adopt a schedule of regular meetings for the following calendar year and transmit that schedule in writing to members, the Board, and the public at large.
- B. All Commission meetings shall be open, public, and noticed in conformance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code section 54950 et seq., as amended and held at a location within Orange County, California that satisfies the access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- C. Special meetings of the Commission may be called either by the Chairperson or at the request of a majority of Commission members. Notice of special meetings shall:
  - 1. Be delivered to members personally, by mail or electronically, and must be received no later than 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
  - 2. State the business to be considered and whether alternative technological means may be used such as telephone or video conferencing, as technological resource availability permits and as permissible by the Ralph M. Brown Act.
- D. Quorum Requirements:
  - 1. Quorum requirements are as follows:
    - a. General Meetings: Quorum shall be no less than 50%+1 of the membership.
    - b. Executive Committee: Quorum shall be no less than 50%+1 of the Committee membership. However, if there are unfilled vacancies in the membership of the Executive Committee, then the quorum requirement will be proportionately reduced.

~~e. Standing Committees: Quorum shall be the members present, but no less than three (3).~~

- E. Voting Majority: Decisions and acts made by majority vote of the members at any duly constituted meeting shall be regarded as acts of the Commission, except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws.
  - 1. Members choosing to abstain from voting on specific actions will not affect majority requirements. Abstentions are considered a “non-vote” – neither a vote in the affirmative nor in the negative. However, in order for an action to be passed, a majority of the quorum casting votes must vote in the affirmative.

~~For example: If, at a standing committee meeting, six (6) voting members of the committee are present to vote, and on a particular motion, three (3) vote in the affirmative, two (2) vote in the negative, and one (1) member abstains, the motion passes.~~

~~F. Voting by Proxy: Members of the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive Officer who serve as Commission members may designate a substitute to attend a Commission meeting on their behalf and vote on any action item by the submitting the member's signed proxy to the Commission Chairperson at the start of the meeting.~~

- G. Minutes: The Clerk of the Commission shall prepare and publish the minutes for each meeting of the Commission.

**Commented [JD5]:** VC: Deleted because 6 may not be quorum, 3 isn't majority.

**Commented [JD6]:** VC: Not relevant - BOS won't appoint themselves

**ARTICLE IX. Compensation and Reimbursement**

- A. Members of the Commission shall not be eligible for compensation.
- B. Reimbursement: Commission members may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred while performing within the scope of their duties to the extent permitted by applicable County policy. All requests for reimbursement shall be submitted in accordance with the policies and procedures adopted by the County on a form approved by the County Auditor-Controller.

**ARTICLE X. Removal and Resignation of Members**

- A. Removal: The Board may, at any time and without cause, remove any Commission member from office prior to the expiration of his/her term of office by majority vote of the Board.

~~Removal for Absenteeism: Commission members will be removed from membership of the Commission if the member is absent for more than three (3) consecutive regular Commission meetings without notifying the Clerk or Chairperson in advance.~~

- B. Resignation: Resignation of Commission members shall be ~~effected~~affected by a written letter of resignation submitted to the Chairperson of the Commission and to the Board.

**Commented [JD7]:** VC: Why is it that just because the Clerk is notified or because absences aren't consecutive that it is okay? Four absences are also a lot. Might want to reconsider this.

**Commented [SV8R7]:** The thought here to distinguish between excused and unexcused absences

- C. The Chairperson shall notify the Clerk of the Board in writing of any vacancies within 10 days of learning the existence of any such vacancy.

**ARTICLE XI. Authority**

- A. Parliamentary Authority: The Chairperson shall preside and manage Commission meetings using parliamentary procedure consistent with these bylaws, any special rules of order the Commission may adopt, and any applicable County, state, and federal law.
- B. When circumstances demand that action be taken before the next scheduled Commission meeting the Commission may authorize and grant its full authority to the Executive or any standing committee to act on its behalf to make specific, limited, independent recommendations to the County, a quorum of the Commission being present.
  - 1. Such actions taken on behalf of the Commission by a committee will be presented as an information item at the next regular Commission meeting.
  - 2. Such actions will not require further action by the Commission.
- C. Executive Committee – When unforeseen circumstances demand that action be taken before the next scheduled Commission meeting, the Executive Committee is authorized to take action on behalf of the Commission.
  - 1. Commission members shall be notified either in writing or electronically within 72 hours of any such Executive Committee action.
  - 2. Such action is subject to review and ratification by the general membership of the Commission at its next meeting.
- D. Standing and Ad Hoc Committees
  - 1. Standing and ad hoc committees shall have no independent authority and shall be limited to exercising only those specific functions granted to them by the Commission.
  - 2. No standing or ad hoc committee shall have independent authority to commit the Commission to any policy or action without the prior approval of the general membership of the Commission.

**ARTICLE XII. Conflict of Interest**

- A. Members of the Commission and any of its committees or subcommittees shall abstain from voting on any issue in which they may be personally interested to avoid a conflict of

interest in accordance with County, state, and federal laws and shall refrain from engaging in any behavior that conflicts with the best interest of the County.

- B. Members of the Commission shall not vote nor attempt to influence any other Commission member on a matter under consideration by the Commission or any of its committees or subcommittees:
  - 1. Regarding the provision of services by such member (or by an entity that such member represents; or
  - 2. That would provide direct financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member; or
  - 3. Engage in any other activity constituting a conflict of interest under County, state, or federal law.
- C. If a question arises as to whether a conflict exists that may prevent a member from voting, the Chairperson or designee may consult with designated County staff to assist them in making that determination.
- D. In order to avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance of such conflict, all nominees to become members of the Commission shall disclose on forms provided by the County information regarding their private economic interests that may be implicated by their service on the Commission.
- E. Commission members shall timely file Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700) and other financial disclosures as required by law.
- F. Commission members shall complete ethics training as required by County policy and Assembly Bill 1234 (Government Code sections 53234 through 53235.2).
- G. Neither Commission nor any of its members shall promote, directly or indirectly, a political party, political candidate, or political activity using the name, emblem, or any other identifier of Commission.
- H. No assets or assistance provided by County to Commission shall be used for sectarian worship, instruction, or proselytization, except as otherwise permitted by law.

**ARTICLE XIII. Adoption and Amendment of Bylaws**

- A. Adoption: An affirmative vote of at least 50%+1 of those voting, a quorum being present, shall be required to recommend these Bylaws for Board approval. These Bylaws become effective upon approval by the Board.
- B. Amendments:
  - 1. Any member of the Commission or the Executive Committee may propose amendments to these Bylaws.

2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing and made available to each member of the Commission no less than five days prior to consideration before a vote can be taken.
3. An affirmative vote of at least 50%+1 of those voting, a quorum being present, shall be required to recommend Bylaws amendments for Board approval. Any amendments to the Bylaws become effective upon approval by the Board.

**ARTICLE XIV. Severability**

Should any part term, portion or provision of these Bylaws be determined to be in conflict with any law or otherwise unenforceable or ineffectual, the remaining parts, terms, portions or provisions shall be deemed severable and their validity shall not be affected thereby, provided such remaining portions or provisions can be construed in substance to constitute the provisions that the members intended to enact in the first instance.

**ARTICLE XV. Staffing Support**

Staff support from ~~Clerk of the Board~~ the County shall be provided to support the Commission in conjunction with the work of the Commission, including liaisons from the County Executive Office, Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency and OC Community Resources, to facilitate an active flow of communication and coordination with the Commission.

The Clerk of the Board is the Clerk of the Commission whose duties are to prepare all of the Commission agendas with related materials and maintain meeting minutes in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and perform any other commission related administrative matters in coordination with the department liaisons.