



**A G E N D A**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**ORANGE COUNTY**  
**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**Thursday, August 7, 2025, 9:00 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*

Vacant  
*1<sup>st</sup> District Representative*

Jolynn Mahoney  
*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

**Data Analytics**  
Chrislyn Nefas

**County Counsel Liaison**  
Cynthia Inda

**Health Care Agency Liaison**  
Brandy Miller

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

**OC Community Resources Liaison**  
Kristina Traw

*This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Except as provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. 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. 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.*

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Approve minutes of the June 5, 2025 regular meeting of the Commission
2. Finalize guidance for guest speakers invited to present on topics of interest to the Commission  
(Continued from 6/5/25, Item 4)
3. Discuss selection and scope of work for contractor
4. Presentation from WorkForce Solution

## **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:** September 4, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

# Agenda Item 1



## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

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

Thursday, June 5, 2025, 9:00 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*

**Vacant**  
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Dr. Sara Marchese

#### Clerk of the Commission

Valerie Sanchez

#### County Counsel Liaison

Cynthia Inda

#### OC Community Resources Liaison

Mary Beth Anderson

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: Brazer Aceves, Mahoney, Marick, Miles, Ramos and Weiss

ABSENT: Commissioner(s):

#### CALL TO ORDER

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Brazer Aceves led the pledge of allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and confirmed quorum

# **SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Patty Cabada – Urged the Commission to support biological girls in girls' sports; that it is not hateful or political to oppose biological boys competing as girls because they have physical and biological advantages making it unfair for biological girls to compete.

Lucy Santana – CEO of Girls Inc. of OC announced that Dr. Archer had taken a position at UCI and that she (Lucy) would be attending CSWG meetings when possible and looks forward to working with the Commission on important issues facing young women and girls.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Approve minutes of the May 1, 2025 regular meeting of the Commission.

**On the motion of Commissioner Miles, seconded by Commissioner Marick, the Commission approved the minutes as recommended**

2. Ad Hoc Committee Reports.
  - a. Data Ad Hoc Committee Report

**Data Ad Hoc Committee reported they had met to discuss the data to be presented in the first annual report and suggested to focus the first report on economic equity because when asking why women face higher barriers related to many of the focus areas, almost all of them comes down to money and closing the gap through workforce readiness and education**

**On the motion of Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Miles, the Commission approved the focus of the first annual report to be on the Economic Equity Gap with an emphasis on workforce readiness and education**

3. Presentation on the challenges and issues faced by women and girls with disabilities in Orange County

**Brooke Weitzman, Executive Director of the Elder Law & Disability Rights Center, presented information on how low-income senior women and women living with disabilities are an especially vulnerable population and at risk of homelessness without the planning, resources and supports needed to retain independent living; and Deanna Parga of Help Me Grow OC presented information and data on their work to connect children with physical, cognitive and behavioral disabilities and their families with resources through family and community outreach, child health provider outreach, data collection and analysis and acting as a centralized access point for the services families need.**

## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

4. Finalize guidance for guest speakers invited to present on topics of interest to the Commission

**Continued to August 7, 2025**

### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS & ROUNDTABLE

None

ADJOURNMENT: 11:30 a.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: August 7, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

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Katelyn Brazer Aceves, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Valerie Sanchez, Clerk of the Commission

## Agenda Item 2

## **Guidance for Guest Presenters**

### **Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls**

Purpose: The Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls seeks to engage guest speakers who can provide valuable insights, data, research, and lived experiences related to issues impacting women and girls in the county. This guidance ensures presentations are relevant and aligned with the Commission's mission to assess any gaps and barriers to then present recommendations for consideration by the board to improve the status of women and girls across Orange County.

### **General, Cross-Cutting Questions:**

1. What are the most significant trends or disparities you see affecting women and girls in Orange County in your area of expertise?
2. How have these trends evolved over the past 5 to 10 years? Are there any new or emerging issues we should be aware of?
3. Which populations are most impacted or underserved (e.g., by race, income, age, immigration status, or ability)?
4. What data or evidence do you use to track outcomes and measure impact? Are there any gaps in the data?
5. What promising programs, policies, or practices have successfully addressed these issues?
6. What role does the County currently play, and where are the biggest opportunities for government to intervene?
7. What barriers prevent women and girls from accessing services, protections, or opportunities in this area?
8. What specific recommendations would you make to the Board of Supervisors?
9. How can this Commission help amplify or support your work?
10. What would meaningful progress look like over the next 35 years?



## **Topic-Specific Questions:**

### Affordable Housing

- How does the housing crisis disproportionately affect women, and which women are most likely to be impacted?
- What solutions have improved access to housing for women?
- How can local policies better support women facing housing insecurity?

### Child and Dependent Care

- What are the biggest barriers to affordable, quality childcare?
- How can workplace or public policy better support caregivers?
- What models or programs have addressed dependent care effectively?

### Discrimination Against Women

- How does discrimination affect women's access to education, employment, housing and leadership?
- What policy or advocacy efforts have been effective in addressing gender discrimination?

### Economic Equity and Financial Security

- What challenges do women face in achieving financial security?
- How does the gender wage gap impact economic mobility?
- What financial literacy efforts, workforce development or policies have empowered women?

### Education

- What educational disparities impact girls and women?
- How can institutions better support their academic journeys?
- What role does mentorship play in advancing educational success as well as college and career readiness?

## Healthcare

- What are the disparities in healthcare access and quality for women in Orange County?
- Are there disparities in healthcare access and quality among different demographics of women (e.g., by race, income, age, immigration status, or ability)?
- How does reproductive healthcare affect women's health, mental health and economic stability?

## Leadership and Representation

- What barriers prevent women from accessing leadership roles?
- What initiatives have been successful in promoting women's leadership?
- How can governments and organizations increase women's representation in decision-making?

## Mental Health

- What mental health issues disproportionately affect women?
- Are there specific demographics of women that are disproportionately affected and why?
- How do domestic violence, financial insecurity, and other issues women face impact mental health outcomes?
- What strategies can improve access to mental health services?

## Violence and Domestic Abuse

- What trends exist in domestic violence affecting women locally?
- What prevention or intervention efforts have proven effective?
- What barriers do survivors face, and how can they be reduced?

### Additional Considerations Policy & Legislative Questions

- Are there upcoming legislative or policy changes affecting women in Orange County?
- What laws have effectively improved women's lives and opportunities?
- How can the Commission advocate more effectively at the county or state level?
- What public-private or government-nonprofit partnerships have shown success?

### Community Engagement and Partnerships

- How can local organizations, agencies, and policymakers collaborate more effectively? What role does community engagement play in addressing these issues?
- Are there successful models from other regions we can learn from?

### Personal Stories and Lived Experience

- What common misconceptions exist about this issue?
- How do cultural and societal norms shape women's experiences?
- Are there stories that highlight barriers or breakthrough moments that inform your work?