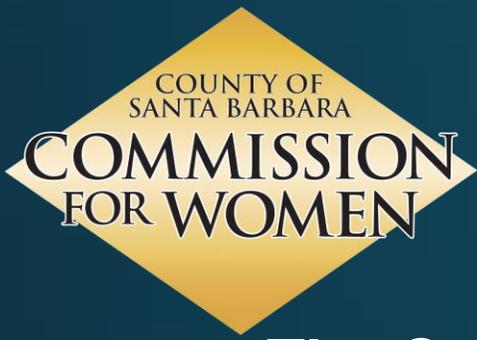




BOS Hearing May 16, 2017



MISSION STATEMENT

The Commission for Women (CFW) promotes the well-being and equal status of women in Santa Barbara County

- Collaborate with other agencies
- Facilitate, recognize and recommend programs
- Gather and disseminate information
 - Conduct public meetings
- Advise the Board of Supervisors

******Toward this end CFW held an open fact-finding forum on March 9, 2017 to hear from women and girls about their concerns******

Over 100 Women and girls attended



Women Speak UP – March 9, 2017

Priority Concerns

- Immigration and deportation
- Teen dating abuse/rape culture
- Racism/hate crimes

Additional Concerns

- Mental health
- LGBTQ safety and equality
- Multi-cultural discrimination
- Need for more after school activities
- Need for mentors, counselors

Quotes and Comments from Attendees

- “survivors of sexual abuse are scarred long-term; look beyond the surface after the physical injury is healed”
- “Childhood trauma leads to lifelong negative health (physical/psychological)”
- “Girls live in fear of being deported and are afraid to go to school”
- “Young kids and families don’t want to come to the health clinic out of fear of deportation”
- There is an increase in how girls are viewed and treated, rape culture is increasing: “I am the only one of my roommates who hasn’t been raped”
- “There is an uptick in young people grabbing each others genitalia”
- We need counselors in schools (not just academic) to: “discuss race, sexism, immigration, feelings of suicide, the juvenile justice system, drugs”
- Need more respect for female engineers and fair hiring practices
- Need equal treatment for girls and boys in schools i.e., physical education, sports
- “Mentors and volunteers are needed to have conversations with these girls”
- Concerns about racism, and improving sensitivities to multi-ethnic and LGBTQ needs

Next Steps, Recommended Outcomes

Commission

- Hold additional leadership and fact-finding events
- Meet with School Board about March 9th concerns
- Share outcomes of events with BOS and attendees
- Collaborate with other agencies and organizations to address priority concerns

Board of Supervisors

- Be mindful when making decisions affecting these important concerns of women and girls countywide, through:
 - Policy
 - Guiding departments, including law enforcement
 - Legislation at every level
 - Resolutions and recognition awards