

# ATTACHMENT A Executive Summary

## Santa Barbara County Commission for Women

### Women Speak Up Event: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - Faulkner Gallery

#### **Introduction**

The Commission for Women is an appointed advisory body tasked with advising the County Board of Supervisors on public policies that aim to bolster women's access to equitable health care, affordable and quality child care, economic and workplace advancement opportunities to close the gender wage gap, and to support survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking.

The Commission holds annual leadership events to encourage participative expression from all sectors of the female community as part of their commitment to represent women's issues. Over 100 women and girls of all ages and ethnicities attended the County Commission for Women – Women Speak Up event on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Library in the Faulkner Gallery. Commissioners Wright, Partridge and Peck created a forum for the women and girls in attendance to express their voices while Commissioners Everett and Juarez moderated the event.

#### **Purpose of “Women Speak-Up” event**

The purpose was to obtain a sense of the priority concerns affecting women and girls to help guide the Commission with their work and the Board with their decision-making. Areas where the Board may support women, girls and families countywide include legislation, policy, and guidance to departments or through budgetary decisions.

#### **Event Results**

Though many topics were brought to the forefront, the critical areas of concern that arose were on immigration, sexual abuse, domestic violence and racism. Others included mental health, teen dating abuse, hate crimes, LGBTQ rights, the need for increased multi-cultural sensitivity on campus and in general, more after school activities as well as mentors and counselors. Supervisor Wolf encouraged girls to have their voices heard by going to policy makers at every level including the Board, City Council, the School Board and other political entities.

#### **Next Steps**

A similar event may be planned for the North County so that women and girls from a wider cross-section of the County of Santa Barbara have the opportunity to express their concerns and have their voices heard. Those in attendance asked that the dialogue be on-going. The Commission may hold a joint meeting with the School Board to share concerns from students ranging from the need for feminine products in school bathrooms to concerns about sexual assault, and deportation.

#### **Expected Outcomes**

To guide the Commission in their goals and objectives for the coming year and to provide information to the Board of Supervisors for use in their decision-making affecting women and girls.