



## **Tulsa Women's Commission**

Regular Meeting | October 3, 2025 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 411

### **Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Mary Quinn Cooper, Susan Crenshaw, Dezeray Edwards, Charisa Jacobs, Laura Latta, Meg Myers Morgan, Kate Neary, Maria Carlota Palacios

Commissioners Absent: Premadonna Braddick, Ashleigh Frohrip, Betsy Jackson, Deidra Kirtley

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Chairwoman Latta called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

#### **II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Chairwoman Latta entertained a motion to approve the September meeting minutes.
  - i. Commissioner Myers Morgan made a motion, Commissioner Edwards seconded.
    - 1. Aye: 8, Nay: 0
  - ii. Motion carried, September meeting minutes approved.

#### **III. Presentation on Women's Healthcare Access: Heather Palacios (Planned Parenthood) and Vice Chair Kate Neary (Community Health Connection)**

- a. Vice Chair Kate Neary, CEO of Community Health Connection (CHC) presented first.
  - i. There are hundreds of community health centers around the country, 21 of which are in Oklahoma and two in Tulsa. Community health centers are required to serve underserved populations and care for folks regardless of any barriers (ie: ability to pay or citizenship status). 40%+ of patients at CHC are uninsured.
  - ii. CHC has primary care, obstetrics, pediatrics, dental, a pharmacy, and transportation. Aims to provide as much as possible under one roof and integrate services.
  - iii. In 2024: CHC saw 17,000+ unique patients across 60,000+ visits. On track to serve 22,000+ patients this year.
  - iv. Commissioner Myers Morgan asked how many doctors CHC has. Vice Chair Neary shared they have 26 providers (includes nurses, PAs, pharmacists, etc.), all of whom are full time.
  - v. Commissioner Crenshaw asked what percentage of patients are women. Vice Chair Neary shared it's about 60% and they also serve large immigrant population. About 80% of patients speak Spanish, and many staff do as well. This helps provide trusted, high-quality care.
  - vi. Title X Funding is a federal funding stream established in 1970 providing comprehensive family planning and reproductive care for low-income and



uninsured individuals regardless of their ability to pay. Can serve minors without parental consent for certain healthcare needs. Important access to services for all genders.

1. CHC remains a primary grantee for past 10 years.
  2. 40% increase in need for Title X services from 2024 – 25. Have seen 3,500+ patients so far this year.
  3. The current federal administration has targeted these funds and services, but it remains a critical point of care for families.
- vii. Commissioner Edwards: Can CHC serve anyone who comes through the door, or is there a waitlist? Vice Chair Neary: There is a wait for almost all services, but CHC tries to schedule patients in advance.
- viii. 70%+ of CHC's dental patients are uninsured. Dental is a very expensive service to provide. CHC loses a lot of money providing this service but it's so important.
- ix. Sliding scale payment for those who are self-paying
- x. Chairwoman Latta: What percentage of partner school's students and families come to the clinic? Vice Chair Neary: CHC started gathering this data about a year ago, about 28% of UPS students and families come through CHC's partnership at Ellen Ochoa.
- b. Heather Palacios, Development Director at Planned Parenthood Great Plains (PPGP) presented next.
- i. PPGP encompasses Oklahoma, Arkansas, Western Missouri, and Kansas. One of 49 affiliates across the country. Kansas locations primarily provide abortion services and are the only to do so in the PPGP service area.
  - ii. Commissioner Myers Morgan asked about medication abortion. Heather confirmed that the medication can't cross state lines. This is leading many to self-managed abortions. PPGP sees many appointments for follow up care for folks who have managed their own abortion at home.
  - iii. Commissioner Crenshaw asked if the federal government is trying to restrict access to abortion pills. Heather confirmed yes, they are trying to revoke FDA approval despite the medication being safer than childbirth and there is only a very small percentage of side effects.
  - iv. Commissioner Myers Morgan asked for clarity on the abortion protection laws in Kansas. Heather said the protection is up to 22 weeks. PPGP is seeing more fetal anomalies than ever in Kansas because people are traveling from other states for treatment.
  - v. Commissioner Jacobs asked about fetal anomalies and unviable pregnancies. Heather shared these could be situations where the fetus could not survive outside the womb. Charisa reflected that it seems common sense that there should be no controversy around protecting the woman in these situations. Heather shared current laws are going after physicians, so they are afraid to provide abortion care to patients



- vi. Heather shared a list of services offered at PPGP. Tulsa offers all of them except for abortion services. Launched vasectomy services in 2023.
  - 1. Commissioner Edwards: Has PPGP received any pushback around vasectomy care? Heather: People have been so supportive, no one seems to bat an eye. Planned Parenthood is a safe space for marginalized communities, and they are comfortable accessing this care in their facility.
  - 2. Commissioner Crenshaw: Do you have a clinical or operations director for Tulsa? Heather shared PPGP has a health center manager and two full time nurse practitioners in Tulsa.
- vii. In 2024, 44% of Tulsa patients earned less than or equal to 200% of the federal poverty level. PPGP may be the only provider they see all year, as they also offer primary care.
- viii. Oklahoma is tied with Georgia for the highest rate of uninsured patients.
- ix. PPGP has a 501c4 arm to handle advocacy, legislative affairs, community engagement, and lobbying. Not incredibly active in Oklahoma at the moment.
- c. Chairwoman Latta reflected on how heavy it is to realize how women's rights are slipping away.
- d. Commissioner Quinn Cooper exited the meeting at 12:52 pm.

#### **IV. Chair / Vice Chair Report**

- a. Chairwoman Latta recognized two new companies who have signed onto the Pay Equity Pledge: Tulsa Opera and Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma.
- b. Chairwoman Latta thanked everyone who is contributing to the Pinnacle Awards. Need one more member for the event planning committee, will reach out to those who haven't volunteered for a committee yet. Nominations are open until October 18.
- c. Chairwoman Latta noted that she is working to ensure that TWC's ordinance and bylaws are up to date. Will have conversations in future meetings about needed changes.
- d. A community partner has offered tickets for the Kaleidoscope Ball to commissioners. Lexi noted that commissioners can't accept gifts without pre-approval from City Legal.

#### **V. Old Business**

- a. Discussion and Possible Action: Commission Meeting Time
  - i. Chairwoman Latta received one response to the survey about considering a new meeting time, and she is taking this as an indication that interest is low. Asked if commissioners want to continue this conversation or consider it resolved.
  - ii. Vice Chair Neary added that it's a luxury to attend a meeting during the workday, wanted to open the conversation to try to accommodate as many folks as possible.
  - iii. Commissioner Jacobs appreciates space for the conversation. Between the options of 9 am and noon meeting times, the current time works because she can prepare in advance. Her school is supportive, but she has to take personal time off to attend meetings.



iv. Commissioner Edwards asked Lexi about evening meetings, Lexi shared that adding new evening meetings is not a possibility at this time.

v. Chairwoman Latta proposed tabling this for further conversation down the road. She will send the poll to commissioners again.

**VI. New Business – no new business**

**VII. Announcements / Public Comments**

a. Public Comment

i. Onyx: Leads a project called Tulsa Girl Power focusing on women learning basic car maintenance, negotiation strategies, and other essential skills. Next workshops are October 18 and November 2.

**VIII. Adjournment**

a. Chairwoman Latta entertained a motion to adjourn.

i. Vice Chair Neary made a motion, Commissioner Palacios seconded.

1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0

a. Commissioner Quinn Cooper was not present for the motion.

ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1:04 pm.