

ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

1983-1985

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse: The commission identified and coordinated crime victims assistance programs and provided training manuals and materials of services available to crime victims. The program focused primarily on crimes against women.

State Agency Questionnaires: State agencies responded to questionnaires regarding the policies and programs used to advance women within the agency.

Appointments: The commission identified and recommended qualified women for boards and commissions.

Bus Tour: The staff traveled around the state and explained the roles of the various state agencies. The presentations featured speakers and allowed for audience questions and answers. The tour helped create local commissions for women throughout Texas.

Conferences: The conferences were held around the state and offered women an opportunity to voice their concerns on issues that affect women.

Voter Registration: The commission focused on registering low income, female wage earners. The commission also urged the Secretary of State to collect statistics on voter registration by gender.

Legislative Handbook: The handbook educated the public on the legislative process in laymen's terms.

1985-1987

Report on the Status of Women: The commission conducted a survey by mail of over 14,000 women to identify the five most important issues affecting women. West Texas State University's Psychology Department analyzed the results of the survey.

"Can We Talk" Forums: The commission sponsored 16 regional forums state wide to track issues of importance to Texas women and gathering ideas for public/private sector programs.

Phone Survey: The University of Texas at Austin conducted a phone survey of 673 Texans to assess their attitudes toward policies with an impact on women's lives.

Legislative Advocacy: A project team examined proposed legislation of the 69th Legislature to determine how the bills would impact women.

Networks: Commissioners established networks among existing local commissions and created new commissions in areas across Texas. These networks allowed groups across the state to work together on the *Sesquicentennial Report* by holding forums and social events.

1987-1989

Economic development: The commission studied the economic advancement of women. The Texas Department of Commerce, Texas Employment Commission, and the UT School of Social Work assisted with the study. The commission also created a statewide displaced homemaker network.

1991-1993

Report on Health Care of Texas Women: The commission examined health insurance coverage for women and gender equity issues and used the information to write a "Patient's Bill of Rights for Women."

Database: The commission created a database of women's organizations located throughout the state.

1993-1995

Best Practices: Commissioners identified model programs to publicize. Surveys were sent to various organizations in Texas to determine the organization's focus and community impact. The commission then examined the organization's measurable results and whether the project could be replicated elsewhere.

1995-1997

Women's Health Committee: First Ladies' Laura Bush and Barbara Bush recorded public service announcements on breast cancer and methods of early detection. Breast cancer awareness PSAs also ran in newspapers state-wide.

Education Committee: The committee monitored legislation affecting women, sponsored a legislative workshop, and published *The Layman's Guide to the Legislative Process*.

Beacon State Fund: The Beacon State fund is a 501c3 foundation created in 1996 to assist with commission activities.

1997-1999

Awards: The commission hosted *The Carole Kneeland Awards*, which recognized reporters who aired stories on women's health issues.

Health Videos: A video collection entitled "A Healthy Dose of Knowledge" was available in all Blockbuster video stores free of charge to anyone interested in learning about women's health.

Speaker's Bureau: The commission compiled a list of available speaker's in various fields.

1999-2000

Texas Women Decide: The commission focused on women's health issues, primarily breast cancer.

Walk with Me: The commission created a physical activity awareness campaign for fourth grade students and their parents. The program encouraged the participants to exercise daily to reduce health risks posed by obesity and encourage women to take part in moderate activity.