



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Broward County Commission on the Status of  
Women

The Broward County Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) advisory board is a non-partisan body with a focus on raising awareness and celebrating the contributions and successes of all residents of Broward County. It provides a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues that affect women, girls, and their families in our county.



## **Who We Are**

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by [ECOSOC resolution 11\(II\) of 21 June 1946](#).

The Broward County Commission on the Status of Women (CSW or Board) advisory board is a non-partisan body with a focus on raising awareness and celebrating the contributions and successes of all residents of Broward County. It especially provides a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues that affect women, girls and their families in our county.

## **What We Do**

CSW assesses County institutions, facilities, services and programs focusing on women or affecting women and their families and recommends plans and programs to address these concerns. The Board:

- Identifies and helps resolve economic, health, social and other issues concerning women's lives through education and advocacy.
- Celebrates the achievements of women in Broward County by recognizing leaders including during Women's History Month annually in March.
- Holds annual events to bring organizations together and educates the public about the needs facing Broward County women. Through forums, round table discussions and other venue events, CSW provides invaluable feedback to the Broward County Commission consist with its mission.



## Broward Commission on the Status of Women

Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

### **2023 Board Members**

Jasmen Rogers – Chair  
Jeanne Kacprzak – 1<sup>st</sup> Chair  
Julie Carson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair  
Elaine Blattner  
Susan Buzzi  
Caroline Collette  
Emma Collum  
Cathleen Dean  
B. Marie English-Arterberry  
Toby Feuer  
Nancy Fry  
Linda Thompson Gonzalez  
Gail Grahn  
Alexandra Hershorn  
Karlene Maxwell-Williams  
Angie Moss  
Christiane Paulhus  
Nicole Murad Scarcella  
Udaya Thomas  
Mr. Chad Zurko – Board Coordinator

### **2023 Committees**

CEDAW  
Communications  
Women's Issues  
Women's VOTE  
Mindfulness

### **Social Media**

Instagram – BrowardWomen  
Twitter - @BrowardWomen  
Facebook - [facebook.com/BCStatusofWomen](https://www.facebook.com/BCStatusofWomen)  
[broward.org/StatusofWomen](https://www.broward.org/StatusofWomen)

## CHAIR'S REPORT

### Celebrating Women

In a time where the accomplishments of women continue to be dimmed, the Broward County Commission on the Status of Women dug in to uplift our women even more. 2023 welcomed the CSW with a commitment to celebrating women boldly and with persistence. Through many barriers, we came together in community to shine a light on some of the best of us.

- Women's History Month was a time to publicly honor women "Providing Healing and Promoting Hope" in every corner of our county.
- With the support of Commission Hazelle Rogers, we commemorated Black Maternal Health Week.
- Thanks to the emergence of our mindfulness committee, we have dug deep on spreading the message of the impact of mindfulness with every waking breath, particularly for women.
- We have planted the seeds for beautiful relationships with non-profit partners, our local libraries, and other phenomenal women doing incredible work.
- And we continue to empower women voters through information sharing and building relationships with our Supervisor of Elections.

Our most important work in 2023 was the second release of the Broward County CEDAW report, highlighting the status of women in Broward County along several different data points.

This report, one of our greatest achievements, provides a compass for the long road we have towards equity here and beyond. Broward County can and should be a place where all of us can thrive in our communities, and we are committed to doing our part to make it so.

Thank you for the support of those who have engaged intentionally with our work this year and we are so excited to build bigger and better in the years to come.

*Jasmen Rogers*

*Chair, Broward Commission on the Status of Women, 2023*



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# ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING



2023 started with the Annual Planning meeting. This meeting takes place in January, where the CSW devotes the entire meeting to planning the activities for the year. This year, the Professional Standards Office assisted in planning the year’s events to achieve the goals of the Broward CSW.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ATTENDANCE	
Elaine Blattner	Susan Buzzi
Julie Carson	Cathleen Dean
Toby Feuer	Nancy Fry
Linda Thompson Gonzalez	Gail <u>Grahn</u>
Alexandra Hershorn	Jeanne <u>Kacprzak</u>
Christiane <u>Paulhus</u>	Jasmen Rogers
Udaya Thomas	
<b>Facilitation Conducted by:</b> Broward County Facilitators	
<b>Facilitation Team Members:</b> Lynette Jones and Vonetta Williams	





# MISSION & GIVENS

BROWARD.org

Status of Women

## Commission on the Status of Women

**Commission on the Status of Women**

**Who We Are**  
 The Broward County Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) advisory board is a non-partisan body with a focus on raising awareness and celebrating the contributions and successes of all residents of Broward County. It provides a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues that affect women, girls, and their families in our county.

**What We Do**  
 CSW assesses county institutions, facilities, services, and programs dealing with women or affecting women and their families and recommends plans and programs to address these concerns. The Board:

- Identifies and helps resolve economic, health, social, and other issues concerning women's lives through education and advocacy.
- Celebrates the achievements of women in Broward County by recognizing leaders during March, Women's History Month.

**CSW Committees**

- CEDAW
- Communication
- Women's Issues
- Women: VOTE!
- Mindfulness

**CSW 2023 Priority Issues**

- Affordable Housing
- Caregiving (Child & Elder)
- Health (Physical & Mental)
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Violence Reduction

# GIVENS







A key part of being able to impact Broward Women, is to recognize our strengths and weaknesses as a team.

<b>SWOT ANALYSIS</b>	
<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
Committed Women Knowledge Multi-Disciplined Community Activism Geographically Diverse Health Expertise / Planned Parenthood	<b>MONEY</b> Size of the CSW (Gathering Efficiently; Smaller; Committees) Sunshine Laws / Only Meet Once Per Month / Process to Take ACTION Focus
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
CEDAW / Communications Partnering with other Research Organizations Collaborate with other entities (Cities, Women's Groups) Cat's Offer: YMCA Black Box Theater / Space Available to the Community (Women's History Month activity 3/15/23; proclamations; sponsor/reception); Panel discussions (record and post on social media); Publicly advise and advocate; COMMUNICATE (Human Trafficking Announcements / Signage @ Airport/Port - See HB); Social Media (Facebook, etc.)	<b>SUNSHINE / FI Legislature / Laws</b> <b>MEN</b> (Few Women in Office) Apathy Time / Competing Priorities Prejudices Violence (Against Women running for Office & Female Elected Officials) / Speaking Up





# PRELIMINARY PLAN

KEY ACTIONS BRAINSTORM				
COLLABORATING ON AND HOLDING PUBLIC FACING EVENTS	SHARING DATA ANALYSIS & REPORTING EVIDENCE	INSPIRING ADVOCACY AND ACTION	FOCUSING ON MENTAL HEALTH	SUPPORTING EMPOWERMENT
Attend Parkland Days (3/11) and Honoree Reception @ Black Box Theater (3/16)	Report to the Community Annually	Advocate for paid family leave in cities	Discuss mindfulness and wellness	Make government work for women
Host Human Trafficking Video Forum @ Black Box Theater	Bring Proclamations Before the BOCC	Increase awareness about housing insecurity	Advocate for mental health	Empower women individually and organizationally
Bring focus to Human Trafficking	Explore appropriate publicity for CSW: TV, Newspaper, Social Media, Press Releases, etc.	Advocate for increase in the amount of affordable housing		
Schedule/Host/Participate in EVENTS (i.e., mindfulness, swim safety, and other forums)	Support Public Service Announcements	Increase the availability of affordable housing		
Coordinate book buy/book drive to bring banned books to libraries	Place CSW-sponsored messages at Airport & Port	Advocate on behalf of battered and homeless women's shelters		
Schedule/Host/Participate in Gun Safety Forum	Attend In-Person when CSW reports quarterly to BOCC	Protect the rights of transgender youth		
Schedule/Host/Participate in Drowning Prevention/Water Safety Event				
Conduct Voter Registration				
Bring Vagina Monologues to the Black Box Theater – Oct. Violence Against Women Awareness				
Network, Gather, Partner				
Schedule/Host/Participate in Panel Discussion on Human Trafficking				13





## AN AMBITIOUS ACTION PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

2023 ACTION PLAN & ASSIGNMENTS						
	Launch	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Accomplishment
<b>Public Facing Events</b> <i>(Linda Gonzalez, Julie Carson, Jasmen Rogers, Toby Feuer, Jeanne Kacbrzak, Cathleen Dean, Nancy Fry)</i>	Create a calendar of planned events.	Coordinate Parkland Days and Participation Women's History Month. Wed., 3/15 @ 6 pm Black Box Theater	←————→		One Event Per Month	10-12 Events Held to Inform the Public on Specific Issues
<b>Sharing Data Analysis &amp; Reporting Evidence</b> <i>(Jeanne Kacbrzak, Gail Grahn, Jasmen Rogers)</i>	Present the Annual Report to the BOCC at the March Meeting	Create Quarterly Report Template and Decide Which Months for Proclamations				Build Awareness Through Use of Templates Annual Reports, Public Announcement, and Proclamations
<b>Advocacy</b> <i>(Julie Carson, Elaine Blattner)</i>	Research the Status of: Housing Insecurity, Paid Family Leave, and Protecting Transgender Youth		Determine & Recommend the CSW's position(s) on <b>Housing Insecurity</b> to the BOCC	Determine & Recommend the CSW's position(s) on <b>Transgender Youth &amp; Paid Family Leave</b> to the BOCC		Visit Municipalities with Proclamations and Recommendations for Policies that Increase Affordable Housing Options, Protect Transgender Youth and, Other Legislative Initiatives
<b>Mental Health</b> <i>(Alexandra Hershorn, Udaya Thomas, Toby Feuer)</i>	Contact and Meet with Broward Mindfulness Meditation Initiative (Broward Schools) to Explore Coordinating on Mental Health	At Least 1 Mindfulness Event on in Broward County that Incorporates Low Income People.	————→			Informing the BOCC; Draft / Legislative Ordinance/ Resolution Increasing Mindfulness Funding / Events
<b>No meetings in July and August; Committees may meet more frequently; Next Meeting March 8th</b>						
						14

## COMMITTEES WORKED ON THEIR PRIORITIES







Thank You



# COMMITTEE ACHIEVEMENTS

As laid out in the Planning meeting, the board accomplished the following from the Action Plan and Assignment -

## PUBLIC FACING EVENTS

### PARKLAND DAYS

- o Jeanne Kacprzak attended the “Parkland Days” event where she met people in the community and informed them about the activities and role of the CSW. There were many women run businesses in attendance. The National Archives Women’s Suffragette exhibit was also on display. The display is also continuing to make its way around Broward County Libraries.





## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The Broward CSW hosted an amazing event to recognize Women's History Month. As usual, the nominees were presented the proclamation at the Broward County Commission meeting.





Later it was a great honor to participate in recognizing current, past, and future nominees in Broward County at a special event hosted by the YMCA. Thank you to CSW member Cathleen Dean, for inviting us to be the featured event at the venue she directed and for collaborating with Chair Jasmen Rogers to produce the program.

[https://fb.watch/ji\\_6e\\_8QkT/](https://fb.watch/ji_6e_8QkT/)





## SHARING DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING EVIDENCE

- The Broward CSW presented the CEDAW report to the League of Women Voters at a community event honoring Women’s “Inequality” Day.



- Jeanne Kacprzak presented the Audit Report to the League of Women Voters event where the statistics of Broward Women were shared and discussed. The role of the CSW was presented.
- The main takeaway is that some of these issues have been around for 20 years with no solution.
  - The data shows that women lost ground during COVID lockdowns.
  - Black Maternal Health was identified by a former CSW member as having the same statistics in the 1990’s and nothing was done.
  - There was discussion of other women’s groups to present the report to, as well as the League of Cities.
  - This report should be a baseline for future decisions by the county.
- As a result of the discussion and unchanging statistics, Broward CSW plans to make Black Maternal Health a top priority.



## ADVOCACY

- 2023 was the year of the development of the Affordable Housing Master Plan. This plan was recently adopted by the County Commission (March 2024) and will provide a framework for the CSW to reach out to communities on issues of affordable housing and solutions for homelessness.
- Knelle Bislam presented at a CSW meeting on the work that AHAM is doing with the UN initiative for CSW girls from multiple countries and requested a representative from Broward CSW. Cathleen Dean will be representing CSW in March 2024.
- Dr. Thomas contacted the Hollywood Police Department to advocate for reinstating a gun buyback program. The Hollywood Police Department did roll out a gun buyback event.
- Dr. Thomas conducted mindfulness meditation sessions for the women at the houseless shelter “The Caring Place” in Hollywood.
- Dr. Thomas collected signatures for the right to clean water petition from her community.
- Ms. Dean organized a screening of the film "Wade In The Water: Drowning in Racism" for the Children’s Service Council of Broward. Recognizing that drowning remains the leading cause of death for children aged 1 to 4, with Florida leading the nation in such incidents, Ms. Dean and her community collaborators are dedicated to raising awareness and tackling the problem by advocating for more families to enroll their children in water safety and drowning prevention programs.

## MENTAL HEALTH

The mindfulness committee chaired by Dr. Udaya Thomas met regularly to bring about a mindful message to the community from the Broward CSW.

The committee:

- Presented the mindfulness program. The board adopted Mindfulness and created a committee to review how best to promote this throughout the county.
- The committee focused on researching gun buy-back programs throughout Broward and how to advocate for this program and to increase mindfulness activities in the community and proposed a line item budget to the Commissioners which was not approved.
- The committee drafted three PSA messages which are being planned for distribution through Broward County public channels once finalized in 2024.





## MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY

CSW Board members represent an intersection of industries, interests, and expertise. We are proud of our members who participate in several other ways throughout the county.

- Ms. Cathleen Dean, as Executive Director of the Victory Black Box Theatre at the YMCA, held a discussion in celebration of MLK Day featuring Michelle Duster, great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells including panelist Jasmen Rogers.
- Ms. Dean, as Producer/Director through her company BlackCat Media, screened her film “Water is Our Medicine,” in conjunction with the Artist Innovation Project. The film explores how the tranquil beaches of South Florida serve as a form of mental health therapy, drawing on the scientific concept of the “Blue Mind.”
- Dr. Thomas and Toby Feuer attended a gun violence safety event sponsored by AAUW of Weston. There were several other organizations present, including the League of Women Voters who were handing out gun safety locks. Dr. Thomas also took gun locks and shared them with members of her community.
- Dr. Thomas published a book in October: Car Talk-Body Talk: Integrative Primary Care for Adults Only which focuses on improving adult health and wellness.
- There were quarterly “mindful beach cleanups” this year in Dania at the Von D. Mizell and Eula Johnson State Park, which included instruction on mindful walking meditation. Buckets and biodegradable bags were used to collect items instead of plastic bags.
- Susan Buzzi received another grant this year through the County for “The Kindness Project.”
- Ms. Moss attended the event “50 Years of Miami Dade County Commission on Women” to connect with Miami women.

## KEY ACTION ITEMS AND TAKEAWAYS

- Continue to establish communications with the community and report back to the commission.
- Find sources of funding to continue to hold events in the community.





## 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE – SECOND WEDNESDAY

- JANUARY 11
- FEBRUARY 15
- APRIL 19
- MAY 10
- JUNE 14
- SEPTEMBER 13
- OCTOBER 11
- NOVEMBER 8
- DECEMBER 13

## JOIN US

You can get involved with CSW by serving on the advisory board. Broward County Commissioners appoint two representatives, and one must reside within the Commissioner’s district. You can also attend CSW Board meetings and events. Board meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month as determined during the annual planning meeting in January. See our website for latest information regarding meeting dates and locations - <https://www.broward.org/StatusofWomen/pages/default.aspx>

## SUMMARY and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Broward CSW is comprised of a diverse set of women who bring a vast amount of experience from their professional and personal lives. The CSW has worked to partner with the community and the Broward County Commission. The Broward CSW Acknowledges the Broward County Commission for listening to the concerns of women in Broward County and for working tirelessly for the community. We would also like to thank the Board Coordinator, Chad Zurko for coordinating meetings and important county trainings. We would also like to thank the Ethics trainers and legal staff who provide direction to the board.

