



# National Council on Family Relations

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November 7, 1980

TO: Public Policy Committee  
FROM: Sharon Alexander *Sharon*  
RE: Next meeting and setting priorities

I hope that you have recovered from the surprising election results! Apparently the pollsters should be joining the government employees who are out job hunting.

There are several things that the Public Policy Committee needs to deal with in the near future so I would like to call a meeting for Monday, November 24, from 1:00-3:00. Ed Graham will host us at 1850 K St. N.W. Go to the 6th floor and ask for meeting room 7-B.

The major order of business will be the establishment of priorities for the Committee. We will discuss each of the proposed activities and what each could entail. Because we are a small, working committee and there is so much that could be done, the activities will need to be divided among us. Ideally, each committee member will assume leadership for one activity and will involve the other committee members as needed and report regularly on current efforts.

To help prepare you for this meeting, I have detailed some of the suggested activities below. Please think about each of these areas, what needs to be done, and what you would like to work on. I have tried to capture the essence of our discussion in Portland, but we are free to correct, revise, or add to this list.

1. Activities related to the White House Conference on Families' efforts. Included would be representing NCFR at Coalition for the WHCF meetings. This Coalition is organizing task forces to study issues, comment on/develop legislation, and increase awareness of the issues. NCFR was one of the original members of the Coalition, and we want to keep up our representation in this group. Another major component would be liaison activities with the WHCF staff and the Office for Families.

2. Co-sponsoring with the Family Action Section and pre- or post-conference workshop on effective advocacy methods next year in conjunction with the annual meeting. This activity would include coordination with Chuck Cole of the Family Action Section in drafting an agenda, identifying speakers, and making other necessary arrangements. An additional possibility is developing a plenary session to discuss this issue.
3. Activation of selected NCFR members as needed to comment on bills, legislation, policies, regulations, etc. Margaret Bodley has already agreed to send a letter (which we should draft) to persons listed in the Family Resource and Referral Center bank, asking if they would be willing to be placed on a mailing list and respond when contacted to our "action alerts." Other interested members should be included as well.
4. Liaison activities with the other White House Conferences-- on Aging and on Children and Youth. This would entail becoming knowledgeable about the processes they will be following and writing articles for the NCFR Newsletter to inform our members on how they can become involved. and to report on what is happening.
5. Represent NCFR on the Family Advocates group which includes the COFO members and Catholic Charities at the present time (more members, particularly minority groups, may be added.) This group is very action oriented and will be responding to legislation, lobbying Congress, and pushing for appropriate consideration of family issues. They are meeting about twice a month now.
6. Cultivate contacts with private organizations which are concerned about family issues, explore and respond to their information needs, and assist them as they seek to advocate for families. This could include working with a diversity of groups and is one major way that the PPC can become proactive in the formulation of public policies and initiatives on behalf of families.

This list combines several of the earlier activities that were suggested. Perhaps you have additional comments and suggestions-- please bring them to the meeting.