

Governor's Council on Women and Girls
July 10, 2019 @ 1pm
Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room 1E

Meeting Minutes

- I. Members in Attendance: Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz; Office of Policy & Management Secretary Melissa McCaw; Secretary of The State Merrill designee, Shannon Wegele; State Treasurer Wooden designee, Pam Bartol; State Comptroller Lembo designee, Tara Downes; State Attorney General designee, Nicole Lake; Department of Children & Families Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes; Department of Public Health Commissioner Renée Coleman-Mitchell; Office of Early Childhood Commissioner Beth Bye; Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Commissioner Katie Dykes; Department of Social Services Commissioner Deidre Gifford; Insurance Department Commissioner Mais designee, Joshua Hershman; Department of Economic & Community Development Commissioner Lehman designee, Glendowlyn Thames; Department of Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle Seagull; Department of Corrections Commissioner Rollin Cook; Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection Commissioner Rovella designees, Brian Foley, Juan Morales and William Kittle; Department of Developmental Services Commissioner Scheff designee, Katie Rock-Burns; Department of Transportation Commissioner Giulietti designee, Eric Smith; State Department of Education Commissioner Wentzell designee, Charlene Russell-Tucker; Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon designee, Kimberly Karanda; Department of Banking Commissioner Jorge Perez; Department of Agriculture Commissioner Hurlburt designee Carole Briggs; Department of Administrative Services Commissioner Geballe designee, Erin Choquette; Department of Housing Commissioner Mosquera-Bruno designee, Shante Hanks; Department of Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby; Department of Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Amy Porter; Department of Revenue Services Commissioner Scott Jackson; Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Thomas Saadi; Office of Health Strategy Executive Director Vicki Veltri; Office of Higher Education Executive Director Tim Larson; Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Sibongile Magubane; State Senator Heather Sommers; State Senator Marilyn Moore

- II. Greetings from Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz
 - a. Lt. Governor Bysiewicz discussed the legislation session and highlighted bills passed that are aligned with Council priorities.

- III. Introduction of Steering Committee
 - a. Lt. Governor Bysiewicz and Secretary McCaw introduced Steering Committee members as of the date of the meeting and explained that more may be added. Members were introduced by Subcommittee that they will support and after each Subcommittee was complete a picture was taken with the Subcommittee members and the Steering Committee members who were asked to support that Subcommittee.
 - b. See attached list of Steering Committee members announced that day at the meeting.

- IV. Introduction of New Commissioner
 - a. Lt. Governor introduced Commissioner Deidre Gifford, Department of Social Services
 - b. Commissioner Gifford gave remarks.

- V. Report from the Council Chair
 - a. Lt. Governor explained that the Council is Co-Hosting, with United State of Women and CT Collective for Women and Girls, a statewide “Galvanize” program. Lt. Governor introduced Brittney Yancy, CT Ambassador to United State of Women, to provide more detail on the program.
 - b. Brittney Yancy presented with Kate Ferrar from CT Women’s Education and Legal Fund and CT Collective for Women and Girls and briefly described United State of Women and Galvanize programming. A video was shared with the Council
 - c. Lt. Governor explained that she and Governor Lamont had invited some companies to participate with them in a Corporate Leadership Circle; that 13 have committed thus far and that they are still in communications with a few others.

- VI. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity
 - i. Executive Director Veltri discussed the Subcommittee’s financial literacy initiative. A group within the Subcommittee has been formed to focus on basic finance education for girls and financial implications for business entrepreneurs. Tara Downes from the Office of the State Comptroller discussed the status of the State workforce equity report that analyzes representation and compensation across state executive branch employees. The report was expected to be submitted to Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz later in the week.
 - b. Education & STEAM
 - i. Commissioner Magubane discussed the Subcommittee’s focus on statewide internship programs and explained that they surveyed state

agencies to learn about the current status of internship programs and gained value from responses. Executive Director Tim Larson explained that a group within the Subcommittee will use this data to create a toolkit to expand internship opportunities and address deficiencies.

- c. Health & Safety
 - i. Commissioner Dorantes explained the Subcommittee's cross lifespan approach. The Subcommittee will focus on prevention, equity, mental health and addiction support as well as creating safe environments for women. A goal of the Subcommittee is to evaluate and elevate existing women's health and safety groups and possibly create a resource directory. The Subcommittee will also focus on allowing the voices of the younger generation to be heard.
 - ii. See Power Point presentation attached.
 - d. Leadership
 - i. Commissioner Dykes talked about the Subcommittee's focus on support for the Aspiring Leaders Program and providing more visibility for leadership opportunities for women and girls.
 - ii. Shannon Wegele from the Office of The Secretary of The State discussed the status of 2 research reports. One report will look at gender and racial representation on state boards and commissions. The other report will research women candidates in Connecticut since the time of Ella Grasso.
- VII. Next Steps
- a. Lt. Governor advised that she was scheduling meetings with Subcommittee Co-Chairs; that Subcommittee Meetings should be held in August and that Subcommittee reports will be due by August 23rd
 - b. Lt. Governor also advised that the next Full Council Meeting is September 10th at 1pm (**Note – this meeting has since been rescheduled to 11am**).
- VIII. Adjourned at apx 2pm followed by a picture with the full Council and Steering Committee.