

Governor's Council on Women and Girls  
Full Council Meeting (Virtual)  
June 3, 2020 @ 1pm

Minutes

- I. Meeting called to order at apx 1pm by Lt. Governor Bysiewicz who offers greetings and opening remarks
  - A. Acknowledges that meeting is first virtual meeting as a full council, further acknowledges recent events relevant to Council goals and objectives and briefly describes some of the Council work in responding to COVID-19
- II. Subcommittee Reports
  - A. Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity
    1. Lt. Governor acknowledges that she Co-Chairs this Subcommittee with DECD, Office of Health Strategy, Comptroller's Office and Department of Housing; briefly describes Tele-Town Halls for women owned businesses and introduces DECD Deputy Commissioner Glendowlyn Thames for additional information and other updates.
    2. Deputy Commissioner Thames explains that women-owned businesses have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and work has been done to connect them to resources that may help sustain their business. She further notes that a loan fund was established for women-owned and minority-owned businesses.
    3. OHS Exec. Dir. Veltri discusses efforts of Lora Rae Anderson and Laura Morris to finish the financial literacy website, noting that they are close to a launch of the website and just resolving some administrative issues.
    4. Lt. Governor acknowledges that Tara Downs is now representing the Comptroller's Office and introduces Ms. Downes for updates
    5. Ms. Downes notes that Comptroller's Office has been working on increasing state employee testing and has been looking into the next phase of the pay equity study with respect to new hires and how dependent care may impact different demographic employee groups.
    6. Lt. Governor explains that she will be co-hosting, with WBDC, roundtable discussions on paid family and medical leave, one on implementation of state legislation that was passed last year and one on federal legislation.
  - B. Education and STEAM

1. Lt. Governor acknowledges launch of Lt. Governor's Coding Challenge and introduces Subcommittee Co-Chairs, OHE Exec. Dir. Larson and DMV Commissioner Magubane
2. E.D. Larson acknowledges participation from the Steering Committee members who contributed to success of the coding challenge and explains that there were 372 entries from over 125 school systems. He further acknowledges intent to put together a larger challenge and thanks State Department of Education for its work in implementation.
3. Commissioner Magubane acknowledges great results and discusses the importance of analyzing the participation data.
4. SDE Deputy Commissioner Russell-Tucker thanks everyone for the partnership and announces that SDE has separately launched a thought exchange from students and will keep the Council posted.
5. Lt. Governor notes that there were many great submissions in response to the Challenge and that one was featured in the Hartford Courant.

#### C. Health and Safety

1. Lt. Governor acknowledges Tri-Chairs Commissioners Bye, Delphin-Rittmon and Dorantes and introduces Commissioner Dorantes for Subcommittee report.
2. Commissioner Dorantes presents (see Attachment 1; presentation).
3. Lt. Governor discusses Tele-Town Hall hosted with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and Commissioner Bye regarding childcare and asks Commissioner Bye to discuss further.
4. Commissioner Bye talks about federal childcare bailout bill introduced by DeLauro and shares slides regarding open and closed childcare programs (see Attachment 2) in describing challenges faced as the State reopens.
5. Commission Delphin-Rittmon discusses updates on women's services; applications for federal grants; and participation with work groups.

#### D. Leadership

1. Lt. Governor acknowledges Tri-Chairs Sec. McCaw, Christine Shaw and DEEP Commissioner Dykes and introduces Ms. Shaw for report.
2. Ms. Shaw (Treasurer's Office) explains that Subcommittee last met on February 26<sup>th</sup> when they discussed various initiatives to promote gender diversity and State procurement practices and opportunities for a diverse roster of vendors. She noted that the next meeting is on June 10<sup>th</sup> and that the Office of the Treasurer is working on communicating to businesses the business case for gender and racial diversity and has been

raising issues in human capital management with industries that have been particularly affected by COVID-19.

3. Lt. Governor mentioned the Paradigm for Parity signatory announcement during Women and Girls' Day at the Capitol and the commitment of some large State employers to having more women in leadership roles.
- E. Lt. Governor acknowledges that she was asked to honorary Chair a working group on maternity, postpartum, and well-baby care during COVID-19, which group is part of a MAPOC Subcommittee, and that she is looking forward to seeing how it may partner with the Council.

### III. Other Agency Updates

- A. E.D. Veltri discusses working collaboratively with DPH to get space for COVID-19 facilities and the significant work steam across agencies for testing, including reimbursements and access for high risk populations.
- B. E.D. Veltri defers to Lora Rae Anderson for more detailed updates on the Financial Literacy website.
  1. Lora Rae Anderson shares draft of the website and invites agencies to provide updated information to her for posting.
- C. Deputy DOH Commissioner Shante Hanks gives an update on DOH support for the housing and community development leadership institute that hosted a table at Women and Girls' Day at the Capitol and is now scheduled to launch in the fall. She further notes that DOH and DECD are participating in a webinar series with WBDC providing training resources and technical assistance for minority women owned businesses. She further notes that DOH has partnered with organizations across the state to provide housing, meals, and medical monitoring to vulnerable populations in response to COVID-19 and is currently working to move homeless individuals and families into permanent housing.
- D. Representative Borer thanks everyone for their work in response to COVID-19; acknowledges bills that were introduced that still need to be addressed and new legislative matters that have, or may become, a priority. She notes that the Women's Caucus met that morning.
- E. Secretary of the State Chief of Staff Shannon Wegele discusses survey to identify women and minority owned businesses, as well as veteran and disabled owned businesses, and plan for this information to be used to help reach companies about available economic assistance. She provides link to 2020 state boards and commission report with link to DAS boards and commissions application process, and provides link to Governor's website on how to volunteer to respond to COVID-19, including staffing on election day.

### IV. Closing Remarks

- A. Lt. Governor thanks everyone for participating and announces upcoming Subcommittee meeting information.
- V. Adjournment at apx. 2pm

**Virtual Meeting Council Attendance Report**

Susan Bysiewicz	Lt. Gov., Chair
Beth Bye	OEC
Tara Downes	Comptroller's Office
Shante Hanks	DOH
Amy Porter	DADS
Victoria Veltri	OHS
Charlene Russell-	
Tucker	SDE
Glendowlyn Thames	DECD
Rollin Cook	DOC
Christine Shaw	Treasurer's Office
Kurt Westby	DOL
Vannessa Dorantes	DCF
Katie Dykes	DEEP
Jorge Perez	DOB
Tim Larson	OHE
Andrew Mais	Insurance Dept.
Shannon Wegele	SOTS
Thomas Saadi	DVA
Clare Kindall	AG Office
Michelle Seagull	DCP
Sibongile Magubane	DMV
Miriam Delphin-	
Rittmon	DMHAS
Dorinda Borer	House Dem.
Erin Choquette	DAS
James Polites	DRS
Astread Ferron-	
Poole	DSS
Katie Rock-Burns	DDS