

Governor's Council on Women and Girls
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity
June 10, 2020 @ 3pm, Virtual Meeting

Minutes

- I. Greetings & Introductions
 - a. Lt. Governor offers greetings, acknowledges other Subcommittee Co-chairs and encourages attendees to use chat function to participate.
- II. Status of Subcommittee Work
 - a. PFML Roundtable Discussions
 - i. Lt. Governor reports that she co-hosted, with Women's Business Development Council, two discussions regarding paid family & medical leave: (1) Status of Connecticut Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority work; and (2) Employee paid leave rights under the federal Family First Coronavirus Response Act.
 - ii. Lt. Governor shares DAS website for the Connecticut Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority and its email address contact information (<https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/Communications/PFMLIAuthority>; PFMLIAcomments@ct.gov) and introduces CEO of the Authority, Andrea Barton Reeves, for comments.
 - iii. A.B. Reeves, explains that since she started on March 2nd the Authority has hired additional staff; selected a technology partner to build the system to collect employee contributions into the fund; engaged a Connecticut women-owned business, Miranda Creative, as a marketing partner for statewide marketing outreach and education efforts; and participated in several webinars.
 - b. Comptroller's Office
 - i. T. Downes explains that in follow up to the workforce equity report from last year, the Office is now working on a "new hire" equity report with the goal of projecting what the workforce will look like in ten years. She notes that they are also looking into how presence of dependents and use of leaves of absence might impact long-term career advancement across gender, and other, demographics (planning to use data from the start of upcoming fiscal year).
 - c. Women Owned Business Resources
 - i. G. Thames, Deputy DECD Commissioner, reports that she and the Lt. Governor, along with several partners, hosted virtual town halls to help women-owned businesses understand the resources available to help navigate the pandemic safely and sustain their businesses. She further notes that there is a DECD emergency response hotline (860-500-233) with economic development specialists to help businesses navigate a vast network of partners in the State.
 - ii. G. Thames further notes access-to-capital programs:
 - 1. The U.S. Small Business Administration emergency disaster funds

- 2. Updates to Paycheck Protection Program – allows funds to be used on more than just payroll, extends time businesses have to use funds from 8 to 24 weeks, deadline for applying is June 30
 - 3. Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan Program – quickly oversubscribed but she believes a substantial amount went to women- and minority-owned businesses.
 - 4. \$5 million HEDCO line of credit specifically for women- and minority-owned businesses was also oversubscribed.
 - iii. G. Thames provides website to DECD compiled small business reopening implementation guide: <https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Small-Business-Reopening-Resource-Guide>
 - iv. G. Thames further notes that the DECD will continue to work on a long-term economic action plan with inclusion and diversity as a central value, particularly noting work with OEC Commissioner Bye and AdvanceCT in addressing childcare issues as part of reopen efforts.
 - d. Department of Housing
 - i. S. Hanks, Department of Housing Deputy Commissioner, shares flyer re the Connecticut Housing and Community Development Leadership Institute (See Attachment 1) anticipated to launch Feb. 1st
 - ii. S. Mosquera-Bruno, DOH Commissioner, further notes that DOH is working on relief for homeowners and a \$13 million rent relief for documented and undocumented population and that programs are expected to help families that are struggling, especially single moms.
 - e. Financial Literacy Website
 - i. K. Martone from OHS introduces L.R. Anderson and L. Morris for updates.
 - ii. L.R. Anderson shares status of website and notes that it is anticipated to launch in mid-July. She specifically notes looking for feedback on the callout boxes for COVID-19 financial resources; tax information; and partner organizations (including highlighting events and press releases).
 - iii. L.R. Anderson shares contact information for feedback.
 - iv. L. Morris acknowledges L.R. Anderson’s work in creating the site
- III. Announcements
 - a. Lt. Governor solicits announcements and encourages meeting guests and attendees to reach out to subcommittee Co-chairs to assist with any initiatives.
 - b. Lt. Governor notes report from Commissioner Bye that there are only 15% of childcare slots available compared to pre-COVID levels and acknowledges her efforts and efforts of Rep. DeLauro and Commissioner Bye to address access to affordable quality childcare, including Rep. DeLauro working in Congress to secure \$50 billion in aid to states to support childcare programs.
- IV. Closing Remarks
 - a. Lt. Governor notes next full Council meeting on July 7th at 3 pm; next Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity Subcommittee meeting on August 12th.
 - b. Lt. Governor thanks attendees and adjourns at apx. 3:30.

Virtual Meeting Subcommittee Member Attendance Report

Susan Bysiewicz	Lt. Governor, Co-Chair
Glendowlyn Thames	DECD, Co-Chair
Shante Hanks	DOH, Co-Chair Designee
Tara Downes	Comptroller's Office, Co-Chair
Kim Martone	OHS, Co-Chair Designee
Seila Mosquera-Bruno	DOH, Co-Chair
Astread Ferron-Poole	DSS
Debra Goss	DOT
Michelle Seagull	DCP
Jorge Perez	DOB
Clare Kindall	AG's Office
Kurth Westby	DOL
Marilyn Moore	Senate Dems.