

Governor's Council on Women and Girls  
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity  
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 @ 3pm  
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

- I. Greetings & Opening Remarks
  - a. Lt. Governor offers opening remarks and thanks Commissioners, particularly Vice Chair OPM Sec. McCaw, for their work on the budget released earlier today.
  - b. Lt. Governor notes that so far two of the three legislative proposals from this Subcommittee have been filed with legislative committees (*links provided in chat function*):
    - i. [AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN PROTECTIONS FOR GROUP AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES](#) is filed with the Housing Committee as S.B. 87; and
    - ii. [AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC WORKERS – HB 6342](#) is filed with the Labor and Public Employees Committee
  - c. Lt. Governor further notes continued advocacy for the childcare incubator pilot program, together with proposals from some of the other Council subcommittees, and that she submitted supportive testimony to the Aging Committee for S.B. 56 [AN ACT DETERRING AGE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS](#) (*link provided in chat function*)
  - d. Lt. Governor further notes that four of the items from the Council's legislative agenda are in [Governor's Bills](#) which proposals were made publicly available today with the proposed budget (*links to information provided in chat function*):
    - i. [An Act Concerning Recommendations of Governor's Council on Women and Girls](#) includes provisions that make childcare expenses eligible under the citizens election program as well as recommendations from the Leadership Subcommittee to promote greater diversity on state boards and commissions
    - ii. [An Act Concerning Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the Departments of Consumer Protection and Public Health](#) which reduces certain barriers for occupational licensing including for Military spouses, 90% of which are women.
    - iii. [An Act Concerning Workforce Development](#) with Section 22 that builds upon the success of UPASS by creating a bulk ride transit pass program accessible to certain members of the workforce.
  - e. Lt. Governor asks that anyone interested in making an announcement later in the meeting make a note in the chat function.
- II. Subcommittee Updates
  - a. Lt. Governor introduces Deputy Housing Commissioner S. Hanks for update on the housing and community development leadership institute. S. Hanks reports:
    - i. Thanks Lt. Governor's Office for helping to get the word out and notes that there were 15 applicants in the last two weeks (maximum of 20

- slots); the application deadline closes on March 1; and if they exceed capacity applicants will be considered for fall course.
- ii. Shares screen for [website](#) (*link shared in chat*) and logo
- b. Lt. Governor introduces DECD Deputy Commissioner G. Thames; G. Thames reports:
- i. Thanks Lt. Governor for partnering with DECD to support small businesses and keep economy moving and offers lookback on DECD support: 96 million in grants and 47 million in loans directly from the state supplementing over 8 billion in federal paycheck protection program and SBA economic injury disaster loan programs.
  - ii. Further notes that DECD has expended 15 million in support of workforce development in reskilling or upskilling over 850 dislocated workers due to the pandemic, 5 million of which was used for supportive services (such as childcare, and thanks OEC and Commissioner Bye for partnership)
  - iii. Further notes that looking ahead they continue to coordinate with US Dept. of SBA on outreach and education on new amounts of federal funding – new round of PPP (16,512 new loans have been approved in the amount of 1.4 billion+); shuttered venues; and economic injury disaster loan / grants program.
  - iv. Further notes anticipated update in March on federal 1.9 trillion rescue package and coordination with federal delegation re long term recovery
  - v. Acknowledges new partnership with WBDC for the equity match program focused on women owned businesses and notes that Kenyatta Banks from WBDC is present to offer more detail
- c. Lt. Governor reiterates some of the funding programs with G. Thames and notes how equity match program partnership with Fran Pastore / WBDC was created to make sure women owned businesses are connected to resources.
- d. K. Banks from WBDC encourages women business owners to apply for grant and describes particulars of equity match program:
- i. Second round deadline is 2/15; there will be a third round in the spring.
  - ii. Application submissions/criteria: business plan with financials; must have been in business for at least two years; proof of women ownership by at least 51%; DRS good standing letter; two years of tax returns; and letter of intent re why you need the funds
  - iii. Shares [Equity Match](#) website in chat, which offers resources to help people submit applications (including business plan template).
- e. Lt. Governor describes other WBDC resources; asks G. Thames to share DECD hotline (G. Thames shares # in chat: 860-500-2333); and acknowledges S. Carmody of her office for helping with outreach for equity match program.
- f. Lt. Governor introduces Ms. C. Blinder; C. Blinder reports out:
- i. Explains that work group is co-chaired by C. Blinder (DCP) and Kathleen Titsworth (DOB) and includes representation from WBDC; Credit Union League; Office of Health Strategy; Department of Labor; CHESLA; Department of Education; and Women’s Mentoring Network

- ii. Notes that they plan to meet monthly; grow website; develop tool kit of existing resources; specifically address high need populations; and actively support work of member organizations
    - iii. Explains hope for statewide effort for financial professionals to offer advice to underserved populations, particularly on financial aid for first time college students
  - g. C. Blinder and Lt. Governor introduce K. Titsworth who reports out
    - i. (see Attachment 1; presentation re DOB initiative)
  - h. Lt. Governor introduces Tara Downes; T. Downes reports about Phase II of the Comptroller's Office Equity Report
    - i. Explains that there is a draft report looking back at the last 5 years and how it compares to overall assessment from Phase I
    - ii. Notes that it shows, generally, the state maintains some of the bright spots but continues to struggle in certain areas like protective services and science and technology for new hires and promotions.
    - iii. Further notes timeliness of this information in preparation for recruitment after anticipated retirement cliff
- III. Announcements
  - a. Lt. Governor offers meeting reminders:
    - i. The next full council meeting is on March 9 at 3pm
    - ii. The next Subcommittee meeting is on April 14 also at 3pm
  - b. Lt. Governor announces leadership panels:
    - i. Friday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 11am featuring black women who are serving, or have served, in local, state or federal elected positions: US Rep. Hayes; Former State Treas. Nappier; Former New Haven Mayor Harp; State Sen. Moore; Bloomfield Mayor DeBeetham Brown
    - ii. Thursday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm featuring black female leaders of non-profit organizations: Adrienne Cochrane, CEO of Hartford YWCA and Tiffany Donelson, CEO of CT Health Foundation and more expected
- IV. Lt. Governor Adjourns at approximately 3:45pm

Attendance Report

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz

Tara Downes	Comptroller's Office
Shanté Hanks	DOH
Glendowlyn Thames	DECD
Kim Martone	OHS
Michelle Seagull & Catherine Blinder	DGP
Kathleen Titsworth	DOB
Clare Kindall	AG
Debra Goss	DOT
James Polites	DRS