

Governor's Council on Women and Girls:
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and Workforce Equity
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2023 | 3:00 PM
Microsoft TEAMS Virtual Meeting

I. Introductions

Christine Jean-Louis called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

II. Continuation of Presentation: Connecting Businesses with Untapped Potential (Candace Freedenberg, Untapped Potential) (see Attachment 1)

Review of last meeting: Talked about women returning to the workforce after the pandemic. The biggest theme presented was using entrepreneurship and finding creative ways of engaging existing employers to hire women, especially women who have gaps in their resumes due to the pandemic. The last circle is continually lifelong learning, particularly with women in STEM and women in leadership roles. Giving the women time to network, build back their resumes, and regain the currency (skills) to come back into the workforce. Will teach women how to learn the new technologies in the workforce and how to be up to date on their skills. They provide a network of support with peers, mentors, and coaches opportunities with key partners, “skillup” professional development, deliver workplace tools or provide online learning or immersion. They also support men who are the primary caregivers as well.

There are three steps to get started: Explore for Free, Apply, and Launch. To help Untapped Potential, you can act as a mentor, host or sponsor an event, speak at an event, or run a company-branded event. They have about 1000 in their database but about 35-45 active members each semester.

III. Presentation: Entrepreneurship for Girls and Young Women (Jennifer Openshaw, Girls with Impact)

Focused on Gen Z to train them to have talent and experience at an early stage and to make sure they stay in CT to find a job. They offer a “mini MBA” to young women. They put 10,000 women through the program in the last 5 years. Giving them resume material and the confidence they need to go in to the workforce. There is a huge increase in their leadership confidence, public speaking, some hard skills like tech business, and professional skills like project management. A very diverse group of women they work with. They also have the impact pathway and there is a lot of companies that work with them. Always bringing in coaches and mentors. Coaches are more rigorous and have more experience than the mentors, such as having an MBA. They also work with military and veterans as well.

Talks of the subcommittee working with them and how to get these women to stay in CT with their skills.

IV. Brainstorm on Future Agenda Topic Discussions and Legislative Suggestions

Be easier to do once the summary reports are out by the end of the month early September. Needs to be done by Nov. 6th so they are ready to be presented to the Governor.

V. Subcommittee Updates (if any)

No updates.

VI. Announcements

No announcements.

VII. Adjournment

Christine Jean-Louis adjourned the meeting at 3:44 pm.