

Governor's Council on Women and Girls
Full Council Meeting
May 11, 2021 @ 3pm
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

- I. Lt. Governor offers greetings and opening remarks
 - a. Acknowledges Mother's Day weekend
 - b. Congratulates Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon for being nominated by Pres. Biden to serve as U.S. Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse
 - c. Acknowledges the incredible work of Council members in collaboration with the Steering Committee members including the financial literacy portal, access to economic resources, youth computing challenge, women in the arts campaign, and women in leadership panel discussions.
 - d. Further notes that the next full council meeting in July marks the second anniversary of the Steering Committee announcement and thanks the Steering Committee members for their work.
 - e. Asks that if participants have any announcements to post in the chat function
- II. Report from Council Leadership
 - a. Lt. Governor shares information about the Early Childhood Education private sector initiative, noting that access to affordable and developmental childcare has been a priority for the Council and is consistent with the purpose of several subcommittees. (See Attachment 1)
 - i. Lt. Governor further acknowledges that the State has significant plans for investment in the childcare infrastructure and expresses gratitude for support from federal delegation, particularly Congresswoman DeLauro
 - b. Lt. Governor notes that Sec. McCaw is currently in negotiation and will offer the legislative update when she becomes available
- III. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity
 - i. Lt. Governor shares that last month was financial literacy month and the Council hosted a panel with Treasurer Wooden; DOB Commissioner Perez; and founder of the Community Renewal Team's (CRT) Financial Literacy Institute, Elizabeth Horton Sheff, who all shared some of their resources to support and promote financial literacy, including CRT's 14-week course that has existed for over a decade
 - b. Education & STEAM
 - i. Lt. Governor introduces Commissioner Magubane who provides subcommittee updates (See Attachment 2)
 - ii. Lt. Governor asks how many students participated in the Lt. Governor's Computing Challenge and Commissioner Magubane says that she will follow up with that information

- c. Health & Safety
 - i. Lt. Governor introduces Commissioner Beth Bye who provides updates (See Attachment 3)
 - ii. Commissioner Bye notes that some of the recommendations from the PCSW survey report are consistent with the Governor's and Sec. McCaw's plan for the ARP dollars (e.g. investments in workforce, issues that impact women, housing, access to healthcare, mental health, safely reopening schools, behavioral health supports, and higher ed).
 - iii. Comm. Bye also notes the Lt. Governor's work to raise awareness on childcare issues and resources and thanks the Lt. Gov. for this support.
- IV. Lt. Governor breaks from Subcommittee updates for Sec. McCaw to provide legislative update; Sec. McCaw notes the following:
 - a. Senate Bill 56, An Act Deterring Age Discrimination in Employment Applications, passed in Senate on April 14th and is awaiting a vote in the House
 - b. Senate Bill 87, An Act Concerning Certain Protections for Group and Family Childcare Homes is awaiting vote in the Senate and then House
 - c. Senate Bill 881, An Act Concerning Workforce Development, specifically expansion of the U-Pass Program, is awaiting vote in the Senate and then House
 - d. Senate Bill 883, An Act Concerning the Recommendation from the Governor's Council on Women and Girls: OTG and OPM are working with the G.A.E committee chairs, Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, as well as Reps Borer and Farrar, on modifications to include some of the provisions from a similar committee bill (House bill 6211). It is anticipated that a modified version will be brought in the Senate soon, and then the House. Sec. McCaw thanks legislators for their engagement and support on the bill
 - e. Senate Bill 943, An Act Requiring Employers to Provide Certain Information to Domestic Workers at the Time of Hire and Establishing an Education and Training Grant Program for Domestic Workers, is awaiting a vote in Senate and then House. Appropriations committee budget includes funding for the program
 - f. House Bill 6445, An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the Dept. of Consumer Protection, and House Bill 6449, An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the Dept. of Public Health, both include a smoother process for military spouses seeking recognition of a professional certification or license they obtained in another state, and both are awaiting a vote in the House and then Senate
 - g. House Bill 6558, An Act Concerning Issues Related to the Provision of Early Childhood Education and Services, is awaiting a vote in the House and then Senate
- V. Lt. Governor resumes subcommittee updates, introducing Christine Shaw from the Treasurer's Office, for the Leadership Subcommittee Update
 - a. Christine Shaw notes updates in the four working groups of the Subcommittee
 - i. The diversity on state boards and commissions group is working to identify new sources of diverse candidates and share opportunities to serve on boards and commissions. Also evaluating legislation for a formal

reporting mechanism for boards and commissions to report on their composition to the Secretary of the State.

- ii. Women in leadership group continues hosting leadership panel series. The two panels for Women's History month were:
 - 1. Women in the media women, noting the importance of including women with diverse perspectives in the media, and featuring: News 8's Jodi Latina, WTNH's Samaia Heranandez, WFSB's Ayah Galal and Ali Warshavsky of News 12
 - 2. Women leading through Covid featuring: Kimberlee Richard, Kayla Bennett, Robin Lamott, and Barbara Chesler
- iii. A group is evaluating employee development and training opportunities, with a particular focus on cultural competencies, seeking to develop standards of practice and support agencies in tailoring them to the unique needs of their workforce. Progressing towards identifying a state vendor to train all state agencies and they expect to complete the selection process by end of summer 2021. Also identified linked-in learning platform for workplace training and is working with DAS Best and CORE-CT Teams to make this resources accessible.
- iv. Affirmative action planning group is to set realistic agency workforce goals consistent with the composition of the State. OPM data and analytics team has helped in streamlining and updating the process of comparing workforce demographic data. CHRO has offered great technical assistance. Group is now pivoting to the Comptroller's Office equity report and how agencies can proactively prepare for anticipated 2022 retirements while being mindful of the composition of their team

VI. Announcements

- a. Lt. Governor announces June Subcommittee meeting schedule
 - i. Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity is June 17th at 3pm
 - ii. Education & STEAM is Jun 16th at 1pm
 - iii. Health & Safety is June 7th at 10am; and
 - iv. Leadership is June 23rd at 3pm
- b. Lt. Governor asks subcommittee co-chairs to have steering committee members make brief presentations about how their work aligns with the subcommittee
- c. Next full council meeting on July 13, 2021 at 3pm should highlight these presentations as well as provide updates on regular work.
- d. Lt. Governor acknowledges comments from chat:
 - i. Adrian Sylveen, Director of CT Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, noted their work with the First Presbyterian Church of Hartford in opening a Community Music Center at the church which offers free and reduced music classes and a "SAFE PLACE" for students; 75% of students who have used it are girls. Contact is: Adrian.Sylveen@thevirtuosi.org
 - ii. DMHAS Annual Women and Opioids virtual conference May 21 9 – 4, free

VII. Lt. Governor adjourns at apx. 3:56pm

Meeting Attendance Report

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz	Chair
OPM Sec. Melissa McCaw	Vice Chair
Comm. Sibongile Magubane	DMV
Comm. Beth Bye	OEC
Christine Shaw	Treasurer's Office
Tara Downes	Comptroller's Office
Clare Kindall	Office of Attorney General
Comm. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon	DMHAS
Comm. Vanessa Dorantes	DCF
Margaret Hackett	DAS
Dep. Comm. Kim Martone	OHS
Exec. Dir. Robert Ross	Office of Military Affairs
Comm. Jorge Perez	DOB
Noele Kidney	OHE
Comm. Andrew Mais	ID
Natalie Braswell	DEEP
Rory Page	DOL
Dep. Comm. Glen Thames	DECD
Comm. Michelle Seagull	DCP
Comm. Jordan Scheff	DDS
Jane Siegel	DVA
Dep. Comm. Shante Hanks	DOH
Brian Foley	DESPP