To: Tanya Hughes, Executive Director From: Cheryl Sharp, Deputy Director Re: CHRO Outreach Activities

Date: April 1, 2025

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES – (amended)

Outreach Successes:

Social Media

Followers: 2K on Facebook and 1,292 on Instagram The CHRO's Social Media Team of Jody Walker-Smith and Spencer Hill, and assistance of Courtney Shields.

• CTRP3 & UConn Law Forum - Panel Invite

Attendees: 40+

03/05 - Deputy Executive Director Cheryl Sharp was a guest panelist. Outreach Coordinator Ana Mitchell and Storekeeper - Michael Mitchell attended.

CBA Ladder Award Dinner

Attendees: 100

03/06 - Legal Director Kimberly Jacobsen was awarded the Ladder Award, which honors a Connecticut woman attorney who has "left the ladder down" for women to follow in her footsteps, and values the importance of leadership development, mentoring, and supporting junior lawyers in their journeys to success. The award is presented by the Young Lawyers Section Women in the Law Committee at the annual Pathways to Leadership for Women Lawyers event.

Minority Construction Council - Celebrating Women in Construction 2025 Attendees: 60

03/06 - Outreach Coordinator Ana Mitchell and Storekeeper Michael Mitchell attended. A celebration for Women in the construction field.

Disparity Study Presentation

Attendees: 20+

03/06 - Griffin & Strong, P.C., Legislative and Administrative Advisor Darcy Strand, and Attorney Spencer Hill led a presentation and discussion of the Disparity Study Report for legislative staff and state agency staff. Executive Director Hughes and Deputy Director Sharp provided an introduction.

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing

Attendees: 50+

03/10 - **Executive** Director Cheryl Sharp and Managing Legal Director Michelle Dumas Keuler testified before the Judiciary Committee regarding the CHRO Agency Bill (Senate Bill 1442).

Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System Attendees: 20+

03/10 - Deputy Executive Director Cheryl Sharp attended this meeting.

Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Public Hearing

Attendees: 90+

03/10 - Deputy Executive Director Cheryl Sharp and Outreach Coordinator Ana Mitchell were in attendance to offer testimony.

• Kids Court Academy – Year 5 Second Session

Attendees: 60+

03/11 - Second Kids Court Academy session viewed the film *Something in the Air – PBS America* and had discussion, moderated by Ashely Stewart.

Disparity Study Presentation for the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Attendees: 12 caucus members

03/12 - Griffin & Strong, P.C., Legislative and Administrative Advisor Darcy Strand, and Attorney Spencer Hill led a presentation and discussion of the Disparity Study Report for the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus,

Government Administration and Election Committee Public Hearing Attendees: 50+

03/12 - Deputy Director Cheryl Sharp and Attorney Spencer Hill provided testimony regarding SB 1518, the CHRO's bill regarding the Disparity Study recommendations.

• Meeting with Senator Billie Miller

Attendees: 8

03/13 - Executive Director – Tanya Hughes, Deputy Executive Director - Cheryl Sharp and Outreach Coordinator Ana Mitchell and other CHRO staff met with Senator Billie Miller to discuss Senate Bill 1203 – Civil Rights Museum

• Connecticut Disparity Study Presentation by Griffin & Strong, P.C.

Attendees: 30+

03/13 - Deputy Executive Director Cheryl Sharp attended the disparity study presentation by Griffin & Strong P.C.

DEIBAJ Collaborative Meeting

Attendees: 8

03/17 - Attorney Jody Walker-Smith attended a meeting of DEI professionals across state agencies to collaborate in efforts to support inclusive workplaces.

Invitation to Emcee & Moderate Our 3rd Annual Women's History Month Celebration

Attendees: 4

03/17 - Meeting with Angel of Edgewood CEO – Jendayi Scott in preparation for upcoming celebration with year's theme, "United in Purpose: Championing DEI Against the Odds," that Deputy Executive Director will emcee and moderate.

• Legislative Breakfast – Civil Rights Unites Tour

Attendees: 75+

03/19 - CHRO Hosted a Legislative Breakfast in the private dining room at the Legislative Office Building to release and discuss additional information on the disparity study and the Civil Rights Museum. Executive Director Tanya Hughes, Deputy Executive Director, Cheryl Sharp, State Program Manager-Johnette Tolliver, Outreach Coordinator-Ana Mitchell all presented.

Western New England University Internship event

Attendees: 50

03/19 - Legal Directors Kimberly Jacobsen and Michelle Dumas Keuler attended an internship event at Western New England University.

Legislative Breakfast

Attendees: 30

03/19 - Legal Director Kimberly Jacobsen and other staff spoke at the CHRO's legislative breakfast.

• Legislative Breakfast

Attendees: 20

03/19 - In addition to the other CHRO speakers, Legislative and Administrative Advisor Darcy Strand and Attorney Spencer Hill spoke regarding the Disparity Study.

Shoreline Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Taskforce Attendees: 23

03/20 - Housing Representative Jo Keogh attended a meeting for members of the Shoreline Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Taskforce.

• Representatives Rojas, Wilson, and Felipe on the Disparity Study

Attendees: 20

Deputy Director Sharp, Attorney Spencer Hill, and Legislative and Administrative Advisor Darcy Strand met with the representatives, DAS, OPM, and DOT regarding the Disparity Study results and SB 1518.

Avangrid - Women's Heritage Month Speaker - WomENergy Attendage 75.

Attendees: 75+

03/20 - Deputy Executive Director-Cheryl Sharp and Outreach Coordinator Ana Mitchell guest speakers for leadership training to the women in the company highlighting the following:

- Attributes of a great leader
- Developing leadership skills
- Leading from a place of power balanced with compassion
- Overcoming barriers
- Empowering others while finding your place
- Confidence and Self Advocacy without arrogance
- Work Life balance
- Vision, Goals and Achievement

С

CTRP3 Forum - Panel Invite Wickham Memorial Library – East Hartford Attendees: 30+

03/20 - Deputy Executive Director Cheryl Sharp was a guest panelist. Outreach Coordinator - Ana Mitchell and Storekeeper - Michael Mitchell attended.

Government Administration and Elections Committee Public Hearing Attendees: 100+

03/21 - Deputy Executive Director-Cheryl Sharp and Human Rights Attorney-Spencer Hill offered testimony on the disparity study bill. Outreach Coordinator Ana Mitchell and four KCA students, Ezekiel Works (6th grade), Jeremy Works (6th grade), Khushi Bhargava (7th grade) and Luke Lamour (9th grade), all raised their voices for social justice and advocacy, offering testimony on Senate Bill 1514 - AN ACT CONCERNING CURBSIDE VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR ELECTORS WITH DISABILITIES OR **OTHER INCAPACITIES** - To require registrars of voters to designate areas for curbside voting at polling places to assist electors with disabilities and other incapacities in casting their ballots.

Meeting with Representative Rojas – Disparity Study Attendees: 25+

03/21- Deputy Executive Director-Cheryl Sharp, Attorney Spencer Hil and Legislative Liaison, met with Representative Rojas as the Capitol to discuss the disparity study.

African American Women Summit

Attendees: 60

03/22 - Outreach Coordinator Ana Mitchell and Store Keeper Michael Mitchell tabled the event.

• Kids Court Academy – Year 5 Third Session

Attendees: 100+

03/25 -Third Kids Court Academy session where the Honorable Judge Dawne Westbrook presented and moderated a discussion on the case Utility Air vs EPA 2014. Helping the students to better understand the intersection of the environment and government, encouraging them how they can get involved and make an impact.

• 3rd Annual Women's History Month Celebration - "United in Purpose: Championing DEI Against the Odds,"

Attendees: 450+

03/25 - By invitation of Angel of Edgewood's CEO-Jendayi Scott, Deputy Executive Director Cheryl Sharp Emceed the sold-out event in Hartford. **Unsung Heroes - women from across our community who selflessly uplift others and embody DEI principles in their daily lives**. This event is more than just a celebration; it is a call to action, ensuring that the work we have done does not fade, but rather strengthens in the face of adversity.

CBA DE&I Committee meeting

Attendees: 20

03/25 - Legal Director Kimberly Jacobsen and Attorney Jody Walker Smith attended the CT Bar Association's subcommittee meeting for the 2025 DEI summit.

• WPC26 – Youth Summit

Attendees:100

03/26 – Outreach Coordinator Ana Mitchell, Michael Mitchell Store Keeper and Regional Manager Travis Fuller tabled the event.

CBA Labor and Employment Symposium Attendees 100

03/27 - Legal Directors Kimberly Jacobsen and Michelle Dumas Keuler attended this educational event.

WPC26 – Antiracism Conference

Attendees: 700-800

03/27 - 03/29 – Attorney Jody Walker-Smith attended this three day-long antiracism and anti-bias conference. Arranged for the CHRO to co-host the conference, as well as a Youth Summit taking place on 3/26/25. Walker-Smith and Spencer Hill provided resources about the CHRO at a vendor table all three days and Walker-Smith provided welcome remarks on behalf of the CHRO on the morning of day three.

Future Outreach Activities:

Social Media

The CHRO's Social Media Team of Jody Walker-Smith and Spencer Hill, and assistance of Courtney Shields, have planned posts for the agency's Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts.

• Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Presentation

04/02 Deputy Executive Director Cheryl Sharp will be presenting to the Caucus

Growing Together CT General Meeting

04/08 This is a coalition of housing organizations working towards fair and equitable housing in the state of CT. The CHRO serves on various subcommittees that are a part of this coalition.

• Kids Court Academy – Year 5

04/08 Session Four – KCA will watch the Film – Flint: Voices of a Contaminate and continue discussion centered around this years theme, Environmental Justice

Food and a Film (March/April)

04/09 We will be watching the two short documentaries. For March's Women's History Month, the documentary is called "KVCR Presenting: Civil Women - Women's History Month" celebrating 3 civil rights women and their journey. For April's Fair Housing Month, the documentary is called "The Fair Housing Center presents Zip Codes Matters" regarding zip codes and how they work in our communities.

Food and a Film

04/09 – Legal Director Kimberly Jacobsen and Attorney Jody Walker-Smith will attend the CHRO's Food and Film event in celebration of women's history month and fair housing month.

• Civil Rights Unites Tour - CHRO Disparity Study Launch

04/10 - With the study completed, the CHRO will be in Bridgeport to highlight the results of the study and how we will be working with the legislature to overhaul the contract compliance program in line with the study's recommendations. CHRO wants to inform our stakeholders of its Commitment, Community, and Compliance in Civil Rights.

Growing Together Connecticut General Meeting

04/15 - This is a coalition of housing organizations working towards fair and equitable housing in the state of CT. The CHRO serves on various subcommittees that are a part of this coalition.

• Civil Rights Unites Tour - CHRO Disparity Study Launch

04/16 With the study completed, the CHRO will be in Norwich to highlight the results of the study and how we will be working with the legislature to overhaul the contract compliance program in line with the study's recommendations. CHRO wants to inform our stakeholders of its Commitment, Community, and Compliance in Civil Rights

DEIBAJ Collaborative Meeting

04/21 - Attorney Jody Walker-Smith will attend a meeting of DEI professionals across state agencies to collaborate in efforts to support inclusive workplaces.

Growing Together Connecticut General Meeting

04/22 - This is a coalition of housing organizations working towards fair and equitable housing in the state of CT. The CHRO serves on various subcommittees that are a part of this coalition.

• Kids Court Academy - Year 5

04/22 - Session Five Case – Carhan vs. Snyder Case #5: 16-CV10444. The Honorable Judge Juliett Crawford and Attorney Spencer Hill will be reviewing this case with the KCA students

• Civil Rights Unites Tour

04/22 - With the study completed, the CHRO will be in Waterbury to highlight the results of the study and how we will be working with the legislature to overhaul the contract compliance program in line with the study's recommendations. CHRO wants to inform our stakeholders of its Commitment, Community, and Compliance in Civil Rights

Civil Rights Unites Waterbury

04/22 - Legal Directors Kimberly Jacobsen and Michelle Dumas Keuler attended this event.

CTRP3 Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting

04/23 - Deputy Executive Director Cheryl Sharp and Outreach Coordinator Ana Mitchell will attend the meeting.

• Fair Housing Training

04/24 - Legal Directors Kimberly Jacobsen and Michelle Dumas Keuler will train housing providers in West Hartford.

Sage Park Middle School's Career Day

04/25 - Deputy Executive Director-Cheryl Sharp, Outreach Coordinator-Ana Mitchell and State Program Manager-Johnette Tolliver will be presenters at Sage Park Middle School's Career Day

DEI Committee monthly meeting

04/25 – DEI committee co-chair Attorney Jody Walker-Smith led the committee's monthly meeting, including discussion of DEI topics and committee projects.

Growing Together Connecticut General Meeting

04/29 - This is a coalition of housing organizations working towards fair and equitable housing in the state of CT. The CHRO serves on various subcommittees that are a part of this coalition.

Immigration Policy Roundtable

04/30 - Deputy Executive Director-Cheryl Sharp will be a guest panelist at the Legislative Office Building

GRANTS

We wrapped up the three grants from HUD: CARES, Health Equity and COVID-19. We were awarded a HUD partnership grant so that CHRO can partner with the Connecticut Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CECSEO) to plan a fair housing webinar and video PSA. We have also applied for several grants with OPM to use CARE funds for civil rights conventions and conference and to get needed staff and equipment to meet the demands presented post-pandemic.

VIDEO PROJECTS

PSA on Allyship

The Executive Interns of the CHRO have created a public service announcement on allyship. It was released to the public in mid-August of 2020.

Life after Incarceration Video Project

The Executive and Deputy Directors and members of the legal department will begin production of a documentary film on policing, incarceration, and civil rights in Connecticut. The film will focus on Connecticut as a national leader in reducing the number of incarcerated individuals in Connecticut and the civil rights forward thinking and action in Connecticut. It will focus on the housing and employment challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals and will be used as a training tool for future seminars and conferences that will focus on this topic. This is a long-term project with a target date of 2022 for completion. The project will focus on the lives of at least three formerly incarcerated individuals and look at any civil rights injustices that may have contributed to the negative outcomes for these three individuals. Two formerly incarcerated individuals were interviewed for the film, by CHRO intern Matt Stayner.

What is Affirmative Action? What is Contract Compliance? Video Project

In order to address the misnomers related to affirmative action and contract compliance the CHRO will develop, produce, post and distribute a short video project about affirmative action and contract compliance, its purpose, who is helped, what it all means, how people in the state of Connecticut are helped by these programs, the detrimental effects of not having these types of programs and how both programs are good for business and business friendly. The project will be led by CHRO Deputy Director, the AA/CC Unit and CHRO Attorney Michelle Dumas Keuler.

SB3

On October 1, 2019, the CHRO rolled out its sexual harassment training video that was filmed at 450 Columbus Boulevard in Hartford. The video is available to all CT employees and their staff. The video complies with the statutory mandate that the CHRO provide training materials and free training for the public by October 1, 2019. The law changed in 2021 and has been updated; so, has the video.

From Lemonade to Light Post Documentary

The CHRO will be producing a documentary film that has been entitled Lemonade to Light Post. The focus of the film is human trafficking as a civil rights issue in Connecticut. Human trafficking disproportionately affects African American females in Connecticut and the CHRO will define the issues and interview experts who can help solve the crisis in Connecticut. The CHRO will also take a broader look at the issue to address all the civil rights issues embedded within the subject matter of human trafficking.

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OUTREACH

Future Activities:

None Reported

Past Activities:

- 03/05 Contract Compliance Technical Assistance Training Attendees: 45
- 03/05 Contract Compliance Training for Municipalities Attendees: 7
- 03/12 Public Purchasing Association of Connecticut Attendees: 25

AA/CC

AA TA: N/A CC TA: 1224 AA Meetings: 2 CC TA Session: 1

AA Special Projects:

REGIONAL OUTREACH AND HOUSING AT A GLANCE

<u>Housing</u>

Future Activities:

None reported

Past Activities:

BITs Tips & Tricks: Proofpoint End-User Digest Review and Discussion Attendees: 90

03/04 – Housing Secretary Stephanie Chenard attended a training and discussed what Proofpoint is and how it works. Reviewed Proofpoint data. Learned how to release, block and allow quarantined e-mails, and learned how to correctly submit a ticket for digest user errors.

Kids Court Academy

Attendees: 96

03/11 - Housing Secretary Stephanie Chenard, Housing Representatives; Jacqueline Elam, and Shaun Jones watched "Something in the Air" from PBS America. Held discussion with moderator Ashely who answered questions.

Legal Monthly Staff Meeting

Attendees: 27

03/13 - Housing Secretary Stephanie Chenard attended. Checked in with mentor system. Went over staffing updates, timesheet and flex hours. Discussed Recon, O.P.H., and H.U.D / E.E.O.C contracts.

Writer's Workshop

Attendees: 50

03/18 - Housing Representatives; Sunasha Dunham-Carson, Renee Clark, John Torres, and Jacqueline Elam attended. A series of scenarios, writing samples and group activities associated with writing unbiased and factual only findings.

Reentry Roundtable

Attendees: 8

03/25 - Housing Representative Jacqueline Elam attended. Monthly meeting of CT agencies and state offices that provides information and connects returning citizens to vital services for successful reentry in their community. Continued planning for April Reentry Month event scheduled for 4/24/25: Reentry Employment & Resource Fair. Also requested a speaker to give brief presentation for CHRO Reentry Month Forum on 4/23/25. Ryan Murphy has agreed and will be in contact with Michelle.

Kids Court Academy – Case Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA 2014 Attendees: 96

03/25 - Housing Secretary Stephanie Chenard and Housing Representative Shaun Jones attended. Held discussion, based on the case Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA 2014 with special guest speaker Honorable Judge Westbrook.

Capitol Region

Future Activities:

None reported

Past Activities:

CHRO Community Ambassador Group

Attendees: 3

03/06 - Representative Laura Roxbury attended an abbreviated outreach committee meeting (the meeting was canceled but a few of us met to discuss outreach anyway).

• CHRO Kids Court Academy

Attendees: 60

03/11 - Representative Frank Sykes attended virtual TEAMS event presentation of the Film: Something in the Air PBS America.

• CT Statewide Suicide Advisory Board

Attendees: 35

03/13 - Regional Manager Jose-Michael Gonzalez attended a Zoom event/meeting presented by the CT Statewide Suicide Advisory Board and CT Clearinghouse Educational Forum with a focus on discussion of Child & Family Urgent Crisis Center in CT. Contributions made to the discussion focused on resources and access and providing cultural and protected class perspective and advocacy regarding demographics on mental health and suicide among youth, overview of the statewide youth crisis intervention services for families in CT.

• CHRO Writer's Workshop - Capitol Region

Attendees: 21

03/18 - Representative Franklin Sykes attended in-person writer's workshop training event

03/18 - Representative Arnaldo Guadalupe attended in-person writer's workshop training event.

• CHRO Civil Rights Unites

Attendees: 35

03/19 - Regional Manager Jose-Michael Gonzalez attended in-person event Civil Rights Unites outreach and breakfast at the State Legislature, discussing capitol region office operations with stakeholders and public.

National Institute for Mental Illness NAMI Connecticut Attendees: 15

03/19 - Regional Manager Jose-Michael Gonzalez attended a Zoom event/meeting presented by NAMI CT with a focus on discussion of Out of the Abyss suicide support group in CT. Contributions made to the discussion focused on resources and access and providing cultural and protected class perspective and advocacy regarding demographics on mental health and suicide among youth, overview of the statewide free programs and mental health group services to support individuals and families in CT.

CT Management Advisory Council

Attendees: 100

03/19 - Regional Manager Jose-Michael Gonzalez attended a TEAMS meeting presented by CT MAC, served as Council & Voting Representative to CHRO assisting the Governor's Office, OPM, and DAS with bringing initiatives of statewide managers to fruition.

CHRO Kids Court Academy

Attendees: 40

03/25 - Representative Oliver Morris attended a virtual discussion of Utility Air Regulatory Group v EPA moderated by Judge Meadowbrooke.

Eastern Region

Future Activities:

- DEI Committee Meeting
- Food and Film Doubleheader

Past Activities:

• DEI Committee Meeting Resource Discussion Group

Attendees: 12-20

03/17 - Dori Bruce attends monthly meeting

• Shoreline Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Taskforce Meeting

Attendees: 25-30

03/20 - Cameron Deslaurier attended bimonthly meeting to discuss updates regarding domestic violence and sexual assault resources, programs, agencies, and events in the shoreline area, as well as a location for networking.

West Central Region

Future Activities:

Past Activities:

Investigator/Mediator Training

Attendees: 5

03/05 - Representative Christopher Blustein attended and discussed various ways to improve rep's knowledge and get staff up to speed. Also discussed how to improve participation in this event. Discussed various legal issues, questions with our own cases, and general investigation strategy.

CHRO Kids Court

Attendees: 30+

03/11 - Representative Robert Moller and Trainee Kristin Hegel attended CHRO Kids Court, where they facilitated and participated in discussions surrounding legal and social justice issues.

CHRO Kids Court

Attendees: 30+

03/25 - Trainee Kristin Hegel attended CHRO Kids Court and facilitated as well as participated in discussions surrounding legal and social justice issues.

CHRO Event Flyer Distribution

Attendees: 5

03/28 - Manager Shawn Burns, Representative Christopher Blustein, Trainee Ashanti Fleming, and Trainee Kristin Hegel distributed flyers for the CHRO Civil Rights Unites Tour Disparity Study Launch event.

Southwest Region

Future Activities:

 CHRO Community Engagement Ambassador (CEA) Meeting 04/03 - The CEA Committee will meet via Teams to discuss, collaborate, and plan future outreach opportunities for the agency.

CHRO Kids Court Academy

Bi-Monthly Kids court Academy Session hosted by Deputy Director Cheryl Sharp with participants engaging in discussions/ films relative to topics surrounding civil rights.

Past Activities:

EEOC Training

Attendees: 100+

03/04 - Southwest Regional Manager Travis Fuller attended the EEOC and JAN virtual training on Supporting Employees with Sensory Impairments.

CHRO Community Engagement Ambassador (CEA) Meeting

Attendees: 15

03/06 - Regional Manager Travis Fuller attended the CEA Committee meeting via Teams to discuss, collaborate, and plan future outreach opportunities for the agency. The Committee sent varying communication to partners and the community at large advising of the "Civil Rights Unites Tour" across the state.

• CHRO Kids Court Academy

Attendees: 50

Regional Manager Travis Fuller attended the Bi-Monthly Kids court Academy Session hosted by Deputy Director Cheryl Sharp with participants engaging in discussions/ films relative to topics surrounding civil rights.

CHRO Writers Workshop

Attendees: 10+

03/18 - Regional Manager Travis Fuller and CHRO investigators, Matthew Diaz, Melissa Joseph and Martina Seminara met with, Executive Director, Tanya Hughes and Deputy Executive Director, Cheryl Sharp for an in-person writer's workshop, intake training and refresher course. (Capital Region)

CHRO Legislative Breakfast- Legislative Office Building- Hartford, CT Attendees: 20+

03/19 - Regional Manager Travis Fuller attended the CHRO legislative breakfast hosted by Executive Director, Tanya Hughes and Deputy Executive Director, Cheryl Sharp, discussing current civil rights issues, CHRO's response and unveiling the results of the Disparity Study. Additionally, information was issued regarding the progress of the CHRO Civil Rights Museum.

Youth Summit: Capital Community College, Hartford, CT Attendees: 100

03/26 - Outreach Coordinator (bilingual) Ana Mitchell and Mike Mitchell from the Executive Teams and Travis Fuller tabled and participated in the CT State Community College: Youth Antiracism Conference in Hartford, CT. providing information and answering questions regarding services provided by the CHRO to the public.

Media Inquiries: 0
Legislative Meetings: 21
Legislative Inquiries: 16
Legislative hearings: 6

March 6 disparity study presentation: 13 attendees

March 12 BPRC disparity study presentation: 12 caucus attendees

March 13 disparity study presentation: 28 attendees

Sexual Harassment Law: 26 (March) and 8374 (cumulative)