

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP  
Hartford

**DRAFT 6/26/2020**  
Minutes of Meeting  
(Subject to Revision)  
June 23, 2020

**Call to Order**

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut, called the meeting to order at Noon. This was a virtual meeting that was broadcast live via CT-N and YouTube.

Member agencies represented by:

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

Doug Casey, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology (CCET), representing Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

Kosta Diamantis, Deputy Secretary, Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

Dr. Jane Gates, Provost and Senior Vice President, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

Shante Hanks, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Housing (DOH)

Patricia Nunez, Program Manager, Connecticut Justice Branch

Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe, General Counsel, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner, CSDE

Glendowlyn Thames, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)

Christine Velasquez, Health Program Associate, Department of Public Health (DPH)

Michael Williams, Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Guests: Matt Folan, Superintendent of Schools, Unified School District #2, DCF

John Frassinelli, Bureau Chief, CSDE

Bonnie Koba, Arts in Education Program Manager, DECD

Kari Sullivan, Education Consultant, CSDE

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz called the meeting to order at Noon. She opened with comments on the current state of events, including: health disparities; police reform; economic inequalities; and lack of access to equal justice and how they amplify how policies and systems in our state and our country systemically place people of color at a disadvantage. The Lt. Governor stressed how important the role of each state agency is to collectively addressing these issues in order to close the achievement and opportunity gap. Members from each agency in attendance were introduced.

Lieutenant Governor reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives set forth.

**II. Agencies' Response to Achievement Gap Task Force Master Plan & 2019 Report to Legislature**

Each agency provided commentary on the recommendations of the AGTF Master Plan; progress that has been made, including progress made that is not specifically noted in the AGTF Master Plan; and had an opportunity to provide ideas for new recommendations.

**III. Agencies' Efforts During COVID-19 Towards Ending the Achievement Gap**

Each agency reported on efforts implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and their plans going forward in the summer and fall months. A discussion was held to determine where agencies are aligned or could be better aligned in response to COVID-19 and ending the achievement gap as well as any lessons learned.

**IV. Roundtable Discussion**

Following the agency presentations, Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz and Commissioner Cardona facilitated a roundtable discussion to identify and strategize where there could be cross-agency collaboration going forward.

**V. Discussion, Wrap-up & Next Steps from Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz**

Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz provided a summary of the meeting, findings and next steps going forward. The legislation requires the council to meet quarterly and, therefore, there will be two more meetings before the end of the calendar year.

She reminded members that the 2020 Annual Report to the legislature was sent to them and that any feedback, additions, or changes, were to be received by Friday, June 26, 2020.

**VI. Agency Deliverables**

Agencies were asked to prepare and submit a written review of the recommendations of the AGTF and prepare in writing any concerns, progress towards achieving the goals/recommendations and any new ideas/goals/programs that can influence the achievement gap to [Charlene.Russell-Tucker@ct.gov](mailto:Charlene.Russell-Tucker@ct.gov) and [Cherie.Phoenix-Sharpe@ct.gov](mailto:Cherie.Phoenix-Sharpe@ct.gov).

**VII. Next Meeting**

The legislation requires the council to meet quarterly and, therefore, there will be two more meetings before the end of the calendar year.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.