

COUNCIL ON WOMEN & GIRLS- SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & SAFETY

DATE: Monday, June 17, 2019

TIME/ LOCATION: 10:00am-11:30am/ Legislative Office Building, Room 2600

Members/Designees: **Beth Bye** (Subcommittee Tri-Chair, Comm. Office of Early Childhood); **Miriam Delphin-Rittmon** (Subcommittee Tri-Chair, Dept. Mental Health & Addiction Services); **Vannessa Dorantes** (Subcommittee Tri-Chair, Dept of Children & Families); **Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe** (Office of the Lt. Gov); **Heather Aaron** (DPH); **Sgt. Karen O’Connor** (Dept Emergency Services/Pubic Protection); **Cynthia Isales** (Dept Emergency Services/Pubic Protection); **Stacy Dawes** (Dept Developmental Services); **Kim Martone** (Office Health Strategy); **Rollin Cook** (Dept of Corrections); **Alstread Ferron-Poole**, (Dept. of Social Services), **Patrice Olson** (Dept. of Veteran’s Affairs),

Visitors/Presenters: **Shelly Nolan** (Dept Mental Health & Addiction Services); **Ashley Starr Frechette** (CCADV); **Jordana Frost** (March of Dimes); **Janet Alfano** (The Diaper Bank CT); **P.J. Cimini** (CSG); **Nancy Bernstein** (Women’s Health CT); **Melinda Johnson** (YWCA Hartford Region)

Recorder: **Ellen Cipolla** (Dept Mental Health & Addiction Services)

MINUTES

Topic	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	Commissioner Dorantes & Commissioner Bye welcomed the group at 10:04 am. Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon was welcomed as Tri-Chair, proceeded to ask members to introduce themselves.	
Overview of Minutes from Last Meeting	Commissioner Dorantes asked for all to review the minutes from the last meeting and voice any issues. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.	Minutes of last meeting approved.
Areas of Focus Across the Lifespan a. A conversation following last meeting; i. Framework - Page 2 of Agenda b. Input on Areas of Focus	A discussion of the proposed framework was led by Commissioners Bye & Delphin-Rittmon. Cmsr Bye & Delphin-Rittmon offered the group a visual depiction of the scope of the subcommittee’s focus of across the lifespan and domain approach including where public policy sits along the continuum (<i>see illustration handed out at the mtg</i>) Commissioner Dorantes referenced a New York State program and its infrastructure.	Group agreed on the framework and areas of focus. It was agreed that DVA be represented in the sub-committee’s work. Office of Innovation for Healthcare will join at next meeting.

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Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Health & Safety: A Cross-Agency Effort.</p> <p>a. DCF prevention work as a model</p> <p>b. Interventions for women who abuse opioid/other substances</p>	<p>A. Commissioner Dorantes started the conversation rooted in the goal of cross agency focus on safety. For example, using the DCF model: Primary Prevention working through mitigating issues around child removal and separation</p> <p>The following points were presented to the group for discussion from the lens of impact on women specifically :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Checklists for providers caring for prenatal and post birth women. Asking about Veteran’s status, Integrating questions related to MH/SUD screening, Sexual transmitted infections (STI) and Intimate partner violence (IPV.) Having a better understanding of insurance and what is reimbursable. Universal screenings decrease disparity and prejudice. -OEC – Physicians reporting included Birth to Three Program, Specialty Pre-school, referrals are up. - Impact of CAPTA which highlights cross agency efforts. - Legislation around care coordination and home visitors/ in-home caregiver supports - DPH could support efforts through competency trainings and policy development -Women’s Hygiene needs- increase access to sanitary supplies in schools and through the lifespan -DOC Integration- Commissioner Cook discussed release and re-entry supports; children visiting programs; child development training for incarcerated parents; giving hope around the responsibility of parenting and building parental capacities. Comm. Cook was very open to any ideas around parent/child events. Patricia Olson discussed Girl Scouts Beyond Bars – taking children into the parents for special activities and visits in a less hectic environment. - DCF 136 protocol in IPV cases- role of DCF’s Academy of Workforce Development, protocol/policy review, police support. Sgt. Karen O’Connor discussed the issue around mandated reporting and fear of the woman to report abuse the second time for fear of losing/monitoring of herself and children. How to make safe decisions around this impact that keeps Moms from calling police. <p>B. Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon spoke about substance and opioid use screenings in collaboration across state agencies</p> <p>Shelly Nolan provided a brief overview of the services provided within the DMHAS</p>	<p>Explore inviting the Insurance Department to gain clarity on what covered benefits are for Women’s health issues.</p> <p>Explore need for more in-depth presentation on behavioral health services available for women.</p> <p>Consider inviting Board of Education to nest meeting as well as eight graders who wrote a letter to their legislators around access to women’s hygiene products.</p> <p>Heather Aaron(DPH) requested a look at the policies of each agency, scope of work, etc. around Health & Safety for overlaps and gaps.</p>

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	<p>continuum of care including OP and IOP programs, residential programs for pregnant and parenting women, and the Women’s REACH Program.</p> <p>What is the role of policy moving forward?</p>	<p>Continue to evaluate the role that policy development and evaluation will have for this subcommittee.</p>
<p>Health Fair Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Subcommittees b. Showcase CT’s Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Particularly for Women & Girls c. Topics/Vendors/Focus 	<p>A. Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe shared an update on the plan for this subcommittee. Over 100 organizations have been invited to join a subcommittee of the larger Committee on Women and Girls. To ensure each agency is best represented, 20-30 organizations will be assigned to each identified subcommittee. Within each group, smaller groups may be needed to help support the efforts of each group.</p> <p>B. Commissioner Dorantes spoke about the idea of the subcommittee sponsoring a health fair. Various topics and themes were explored. The two key themes were: -Cross agency collaboration -Celebration and acceleration of the work done in CT</p> <p>Goal would be to provide a full snapshot of all services available, also gleaned from other Health and related Fairs in the State. Consideration- Who should be the focus, community? Constituents? Policy makers?</p> <p>Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe noted: Health Fairs are already scheduled for Fall. Question was posed regarding timeline, should this group postpone until Spring 2020.</p> <p>C. Additional discussion around developing a catalog/guide of services. Could DAS be a repository for collected information/resources? Example Topic discussed: Breast Health Care. Issue around ultrasound screening exempt from state prevention law/insurance coverage. Screening after cancer treatment is not considered preventative, but diagnostic. This practice should be changed to cover all screenings.</p> <p>Commissioner Bye shared an update on the presentation done at the April meeting on the ECCP. Following this meeting additional conversations have been held about developing policy, additional funding support and workforce development. In addition, she highlighted a collaboration between OEC & DCF to quickly remedy some of the waitlist issue through funding to prevent interruption of services by</p>	<p>Postponing fair from the fall to the spring was agreed upon for proper impact.</p> <p>Check into other Fair events scheduled – LOB.</p> <p>Clarify theme.</p> <p>Catalog was favored</p>

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	addressing the challenges expressed by the ECCP contractors	
Expansion of Committee a. Process and Outreach	Who else can add to this conversation? The group brainstormed and identified the following voices: Disabilities, Trans Women, HIV/STI – education, CHA, CT Alliance to end sexual violence, Planned Parenthood, 211, FQHCs, Community Action Agencies, AARP, Oakhill, March of Dimes, Physicians, CT Hospital Association, Older Adult/ Aging Women’s Issues	Email suggestions to Tri-Chairs To be discussed.
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.	The next meeting will be scheduled for August 2019. This sub-committee will meet every other month on alternate months from the monthly council meetings.