

Governor's Council on Women and Girls  
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity  
October 17, 2019 @ 2pm  
Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room 1A

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Minutes

- I. Attendees: Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz; Asst. State Comptroller Michelle Gilman; Dept. of Housing Deputy Commissioner Shante Hanks; Deputy DECD Commissioner Glendowlyn Thames; Solicitor General Clare Kindall; State Senator Marilyn Moore; Dept. of Banking Commissioner Jorge Perez; Dept. of Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby; Aging and Disability Services Commissioner Amy Porter; DMV Commissioner Bongsi Magubane; Lora Rae Anderson, Dept. of Consumer Protection; Erin Choquette & Shantelle Vars, Dept. of Administrative Services; Debra Goss, DOT; Astread Ferron-Poole, DSS; Cherie Phoenix-Sharpe, Office of the Lt. Governor; Emily Demicco, AFSCME; Amanda Aronson, Aronson Consulting, LLC; Emily Byrne, CT Voices for Children; Michelle Duprey, Dept. of Disability Services for the City of New Haven; Jeremy Race, Junior Achievement of Southwest New England; Jackie Lightfield, Norwalk 2.0; Sarah Bodley, ReSET; Alisha Verdone, Updike, Kelly & Spacey, P.C.; Milena Erwin, University of Hartford Women's Business Center; Jeanette Weldon, CT Health & Educational Facilities Authority; Madeline Granato, Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund; Gabriella Martin, Lobbyist
- II. Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz called the meeting to order at 2:00pm, welcomed those in attendance, and asked that everyone introduce themselves.
- III. Updates
  - a. Workforce Equity Report Recommendations
    - i. Lt. Governor noted that her office and the Governor's office met with the Comptroller's office, as well as representatives from two state agencies, to get more insight about what was being recommended and why and further stated that she anticipates meetings with State Agency Commissioners to review their particular results, which would likely include agency self-assessments, and continuing communications through the Council for progress updates.
    - ii. Asst. Comptroller Gilman noted that the Comptroller's Office will continue to be a resource for the Governor's Office and Lt. Governor's Office, they are looking forward to continuing work with them and DAS and are happy to answer any questions.
  - b. Business Development Resources

- i. Lt. Governor invited Deputy Commissioner Thames to share updates on business development resources.
    - ii. Deputy Commissioner Thames stated that as part of a joint collaboration with the Secretary of the State's Office and DECD, when businesses are registering with the Secretary of the State's office there is a new optional survey question about whether the business is women or minority owned so that the State can better collect this data and target and develop resources.
    - iii. Phoenix-Sharpe noted, and Deputy Commissioner Thames confirmed, that this question will be part of annual report filings as well
    - iv. Commissioner Porter asked if there were categories other than women or minority owned included with the questions and Deputy Commissioner Thames noted that disability and veteran owned options are also included
    - v. Choquette asked if it is possible to include a question re whether they are already registered / certified with DAS as a small / minority owned business, and Deputy Commissioner Thames stated that she would circle back with Secretary of the State's Office on this.
  - c. Financial Literacy
    - i. Anderson from DCP stated that the working group is still working on a website to compile all existing State financial literacy resources and met with SiteCore. They are planning to categorize resources based on type of information (e.g., for school age kids, family budgeting, business healthcare costs, etc.); include relevant press releases and include a calendar of events for State speaking engagements and other community events so that everyone is informed about what everyone else is doing and working in collaboration.
  - d. Lt. Governor reminded the Steering Committee members to communicate with the people leading subject areas should they have any comments, suggestions, or questions.

#### IV. Legislative Considerations

- a. Lt. Governor acknowledged the 6 proposals that were received by the deadline: Two from YWCA Hartford; one jointly from AFSCME Council 4, AFT Connecticut, and CSEA SEIU Local 2001; two from AFSCME Council 4, CT AFL-CIO; and one from Jackie Lightfield of Norwalk 2.0. Lt. Governor also acknowledged one other legislative proposal, which was received after the deadline: CT Voices for Children. Lt. Governor then invited any representatives from these organizations that made the proposals to summarize their proposals.
- b. Senator Moore acknowledged bill proposals that came up in last legislative session and explained that there is legislative support for some of them.
  - i. YWCA representative was not present.

- ii. Proposals from AFSCME Council 4, CT AFL-CIO: Discussed domestic worker bill that seeks to give greater protection to domestic workers and on-call legislation seeking regularity to on-call workers' scheduling.
  - iii. Joint proposal between AFSCME Council 4, CT AFL-CIO & CSEA/SEIU re greater protection for para-educators.
  - iv. Emily Byrne explains that the CT Voices for Children proposal is in partnership with All Our Kin: Proposes zoning and housing legislation to address restrictions on childcare businesses, often started by women entrepreneurs. Gilman asked about distinctions between currently regulated businesses versus those that are not and Byrne explained that the new legislation is expected to address the issue of unlicensed childcare businesses.
  - v. Proposal from Norwalk 2.0: Jackie Lightfield explained that Norwalk 2.0 has been working with City of Norwalk on the issue of equity in broadband access; proposal allows municipalities to have a dig once policy that encourages them to identify areas where they can put fiber in the ground and attach it to a town road aid grant
- V. 2020 Meeting Schedule
  - a. Phoenix-Sharpe announced that the next meeting will be December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in Hearing Room 1A and that the regular schedule for 2020 will be 11am meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every other month. She also noted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in February is a State holiday, so only the first meeting will be on the second Tuesday as opposed to Wednesday; so the tentative dates for the 2020 schedule will then be as follows: Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>; Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>; Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup>; Wednesday October 7; and Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup>. Phoenix-Sharpe noted that these dates are tentative for now because they need to confirm meeting room reservations, and said that she would update the subcommittee if any changes occur.
- VI. Lt. Governor noted that a member of the Corporate Leadership Circle suggested representation from the building trades unions on the Steering Committee and acknowledged that Kim Glassman has been added.
  - a. Comments from Kimberly Glassman, Director of the Foundation for Fair Contracting
- VII. Commissioner Westby noted that October is Manufacturing Month and further noted upcoming events
- VIII. Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.