

Governor's Council on Women and Girls  
November 13, 2019 @ 11am  
Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room 1E

Minutes

- I. Greetings
  - a. Sec. McCaw welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting, circulated a sign in sheet (see attachment), acknowledged that Lt. Governor Bysiewicz was called away and will hopefully join later and moved report from Council Chair to after subcommittee reports. Sec. McCaw further changed order of Subcommittee reports to start with Leadership.
- II. Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Leadership
    - i. Sec. McCaw acknowledged that Christine Shaw is taking over as third chair of the Subcommittee on behalf of the Office of the Treasurer and that Ms. Shaw could not be present for this meeting but will hopefully be introduced at the next meeting.
    - ii. Sec. McCaw acknowledged that the Subcommittee has three major initiatives underway:
      - 1. Aspiring Leaders Program – Subcommittee expressed a strong desire to expand the frequency and content of the existing employee development program but they've learned that the capacity is limited. Conversations are ongoing with DAS regarding a more comprehensive employee development program overall.
      - 2. Women and Girls Day at the Capitol – The overall purpose of the event is to Celebrate, Connect, and Inspire women and girls. Save the date for March 6<sup>th</sup> which aligns well with Women's History Month and International Women's Day. The concept is being floated through other subcommittees who have each expressed an interest in conducting events (e.g. health fair & career fair)
      - 3. Corporate Governance - Jennifer Putetti reported on behalf on the Office of the Treasurer who explained that in addition to the 30% coalition, the Office of the Treasurer, on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, announced the launch of the Northeast Investors' Diversity Initiative, a regional partnership dedicated to increasing women on corporate boards with a focus on companies headquartered in the Northeast. OTT has partnered with Treasurers in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, NYC and others with, collectively, \$283 billion in assets under management.

4. Boards and Commissions Report – Secretary of the State Chief of Staff Shannon Wegele reported that the survey to measure gender and racial diversity on State Boards and Commissions has been distributed. So far half of the entities have responded; Wegele thanked Secretary McCaw for the extra nudge. SOTS is hoping to have a draft report ready by end of the calendar year.

b. Education & STEAM

- i. Subcommittee Co-Chair and Executive Director of the Office of Higher Education, Tim Larson, reported that the Subcommittee is divided into 4 segments: Information Hub – led by State Department of Education; 2) Coding challenge – led by Department of Transportation; 3) Internship Development – led by Department of Administrative Services; and 4) Arts – led by DECD. Looking for robust ideas from the subgroups.
- ii. Subcommittee is reviewing two potential pieces of legislation: one re science data tracking in schools and another re expansion of the UPASS

c. Health & Safety

- i. Subcommittee Co-Chair and Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, acknowledged that the Subcommittee is currently considering the following re legislative proposals (and acknowledged that there may be other committees or legislation that the ideas could fit within):

- i. Address the need for social and emotional learning in schools through life skills education curriculum to assist students with managing emotions and accessing help.
- ii. Amending reimbursement rate to support parity for Nurse midwives. They are consulting with DPH and DSS
- iii. Adding DULA support as a billable service which could help address health equity issues for women who are expecting. Consulting with DPH.
- iv. Period supply project – previously discussed presentation from high school students and plan to connect with Senate which they understand is working on something to address this as well.

- ii. Subcommittee Co-Chair and Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, Vanessa Dorantes, explained that with such a large Subcommittee they are working on making sure they focus on broad and general themes for women and girls issues while not overlapping other matters that are currently under way.

d. Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity

- i. Sec. McCaw noted that legislative proposals will be reviewed by Council leadership and they expect to provide updates in January meeting.

- ii. Subcommittee Co-Chair and Assistant Comptroller Gilman reported that they had a well-attended subcommittee meeting and reviewed legislative proposals submitted. She also acknowledged that one of the Subcommittee initiatives is financial literacy to support economic empowerment for women and explained that Prudential (State vendor for investment plans for State employees and retirees) will present at the next Subcommittee meeting. Gilman also mentioned continued communications with State agencies about the Comptroller's office workforce equity report and next steps including, potentially, a higher analysis in the future and follow ups on recommendations in the report.
- iii. Kim Martone reported on behalf of Co-Chair Executive Director Victoria Veltri – financial literacy subgroup has met four times since July, identified all state agencies that provide financial information and have compiled their links into a single document (a smaller group will categorize the links). They have met with Site core re posting a central page on State website and also met with CHEFA and CHESLA who have their own website. The group is sharing outreach events and discussed building financial literacy tracks into events and conferences as well as a speakers bureau across agencies
- iv. Wegele reports that Sectary of the State's office worked with DECD to implement an optional survey to collect information about whether businesses identify as woman, minority, veteran or disabled owned. This will be available when businesses report annually and will help with connecting businesses to available resources.

### III. Report from the Council Chair

#### a. Galvanize CT

- i. Sec. McCaw acknowledged that Galvanize CT is less than a month away and the Council is Co-Hosting this Statewide Conference with the United State of Women and the CT Collective for Women and Girls. Sec. McCaw introduced Brittney Yancy to provide an update.
- ii. Brittney Yancy, Greater Hartford Ambassador to United State of Women, reports that Galvanize is a Statewide gender equity summit – full day of panels, speakers and training tracks (Galvanize in other States typically has four training tracks but CT will have six including a youth leadership track and Goodwin's advanced manufacturing track in addition to leadership, running for office, community organizing and entrepreneurship). Up to 50 youth are able to attend. Featured speakers include Lt. Governor Bysiewicz; Valerie Jarett; Theresa Younger from the Ms. Foundation; Chief of Mohegan Tribe Lynn Malerba and other local and State leaders and an evening speaker that is not being revealed yet. Yancy asked people to reach out to their contacts about the event.

b. Corporate Leadership Circle

- i. Sec. McCaw acknowledged that she, the Lt. Governor and the Governor followed up with the Circle in October and continued conversations with some of the State's largest employers about internships, educational pipeline programs for employment, affordable and development child care and women representation in corporate leadership. She further reported that since the Circle was formed 4 companies in the Circle have decided to join the Paradigm for Parity movement, showing their commitment to gender parity by 2030: Boehringer Ingelheim, CVS, Stanley Black and Decker and The Hartford. Sec. McCaw further noted that this is in addition to the four Circle members that were already signatories: UTC, Frontier, Synchrony and KeyBank.

IV. Next Steps

- a. Sec. McCaw announced that December Subcommittee meetings are posted on the website as are some of the meeting dates for 2020; she further noted that all of the 2020 meeting dates will should be posted in the next couple of weeks.
- b. Wegele announced upcoming Events for Commission (Co-Chaired by Lt. Governor Bysiewicz, Secretary of the State Merrill and First Lady Lamont) celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment: tomorrow night at CT Historical Society - Images in the fight for American women's voting rights, 5:45 to 7:00 and this Saturday 3-4pm at the Avon Library – Author Susan Ware - Why They Marched: Untold Stories of Women who fought for the right to vote
- c. Lt. Governor Bysiewicz joined the meeting, thanked Sec. McCaw for efficiency, acknowledged that she just welcomed Alyssa Naeher from Trumbull CT and member of the US Soccer team and presented her with a proclamation making it Alyssa Naeher day
- d. Lt. Governor asked that everyone proceed with the December Subcommittee Meetings and announced that the next Full Council Meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am.

V. Adjourned at apx. 12:35.