

COUNCIL ON WOMEN & GIRLS- SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & SAFETY

DATE: Monday, August 3, 2020

TIME/ LOCATION: 10:00am - 11:00 am/ Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

Members/Designees/Attendees: **Miriam Delphin-Rittmon** (Subcommittee Tri-Chair, Dept. Mental Health & Addiction Services); **Vannessa Dorantes** (DCF); **Karin Bent**, (OEC); **Kim Martone** (Office Health Strategy); **Colette Anderson**, (CT Women’s Consortium); **Donna Palomba** (Jane Doe No More); **Ashley Starr Frechette** (CCADV); **Kathy Flaherty** (CLRP); **Janet Alfano** (The Diaper Bank); **Valencia Bagby-Young** (for Comm. Jordan Scheff, DDS); **Maggie Adair** (Office of Early Childhood); **Mary Cooper**(CT Hospital Association); **Nichelle Mullins** (Charter Oak Health Center); **Chenae Russell**; **Siobhan Feliciano**; **Thomas Saadi** (DVA); **Annemarie Boulay** (The Underground); **Anne Bonito**; **Bonnie Lasky**; **Lucy Nolan** (CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence); **Ashley McAuliffe**; **Sarah Normandie**; **Thomas Zeffiro**, **Alice Forrester** (Clifford Beers)

Visitors/Presenters:

Recorder: Marilyn Duran (Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services)

MINUTES

Topic	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon and Commissioner Dorantes welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.	
Review and approval of Minutes from Last Meeting	Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon asked for review and approval of the June 23, 2020 meeting minutes. All approved.	Approved
Ideas for Legislative Proposals	<p>Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon started the discussion by asking for any ideas or other areas that people have in mind and want to consider for the upcoming legislative session. The legislative proposal form that will be used is similar to the one used last year that goes through the rationale and the anticipated funding needs.</p> <p>Commissioner Saadi asked if there is anything currently embedded within existing statutes that does provide commissioners a broader authority to suspend or amend certain regulations or policy and procedures temporarily; or to be able to issue them in a rapid fashion during an emergency order situation. Or do we need something more in law to do that?</p> <p>Janet Alfano talked about diapers for infants and toddlers and the potential for them to be covered under Medicaid; such as a bundled payment around maternal and infant health</p>	<p>A conversation that needs to be discussed further</p> <p>A conversation that needs to be discussed further and check if</p>

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	<p>as an essential health need for low income families. Alice Forrester agreed with this approach and also asked to link maternal depression.</p> <p>Lucy Nolan would like for the subcommittee to look at Do-It-Yourself rape kits.</p> <p>Kathy Flaherty - CLRP will be proposing some changes to the civil commitment system and the PSRB - these systems do impact women, but perhaps not disproportionately.</p>	<p>other states are doing this.</p> <p>A conversation that needs to be discussed further.</p>
<p>Women and Girls Reopening Considerations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. School – Commissioner Dorantes talked about how most single moms do not have the resources to make decisions about reopening; Karin Bent talked about freedom, flexibility and allowances for work schedule changes to accommodate kids with school work, since some employers do not make it easy to accommodate a change in work schedules. b. Childcare - Many providers have had to shut down due to COVID. Alice Forrester is concerned about not having enough afterschool programs due to COVID. Collette Anderson said women with children who have special needs are further impacted in their ability to work while actually providing remote services for their care. c. Domestic violence supports – Ashley McAuliffe talked about increasing education within the healthcare field so that if we have to go back into isolation more people will know there are resources. Lucy Nolan wants to make sure that victims of sexual violence feel that they can go to hospitals and that services and advocates are available to them. d. Equity considerations – embedded in other areas under this topic. e. Other community services and supports for women and girls – Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon talked about Commissioner Bye’s interest in increasing access to formula for infants. Typically, formula is not available at food distribution sites. Women who are struggling financially, especially women of color, have a difficult time accessing formula. A thought is to have a statewide formula drive that would then supply some of the food distribution sites across the state. Anne Bonito suggested we contact the manufacturers for donations and/or purchase formula. 	<p>Sharing information within our various networks related to getting the work out on domestic violence resources and supports.</p> <p>Needs additional follow-up.</p>

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	<p>Commissioner Dorantes asked participants on the health and safety subcommittee to start to gather information and resources they have available within their specific agencies. She mentioned they are thinking of pulling together a form of directory to make sure people know what resources are available out there.</p> <p>There was a mention of the invitation to the MAPOC subcommittee to determine areas of overlap and potential for future collaboration. Rep. Gilchrest has been invited to the Health & Safety subcommittee to present and the subcommittee will also present an overview to the MAPOC group to find ways to collaborate and reduce duplication of efforts while strengthening advocacy as the Lt. Governor has leadership role across both subcommittees.</p>	<p>Health and Safety subcommittee collaboration with MAPOC subcommittee</p>
Updates	Tabled	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am	<p>Future Subcommittee Meetings:</p> <p>October 5th, 10-11:30 am</p> <p>December 7th, 10-11:30 am,</p>