

COUNCIL ON WOMEN & GIRLS- SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & SAFETY

DATE: December 7, 2020

TIME/ LOCATION: 9:00am - 11:00 am/ Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

Members/Designees/Attendees: **Beth Bye** (Subcommittee Co-Chair: OEC); **Vannessa Dorantes** (Subcommittee Co-Chair: DCF); **Miriam Delphin-Rittmon** (Subcommittee Co-Chair: DMHAS); **Yvonne Addo** (DMHAS); **Janet Alfano** (The Diaper Bank); **Valencia Bagby-Young** (for Comm. Jordan Scheff, DDS); **Candace Barriteau Phaire**; **Rep. Dorinda Borer**; **Kathleen Callahan**; **Mary Cooper**; **Beth Deckers**; **Karen DuBois-Walton** (NH Housing Authority); **Astread Ferron-Poole**; **Kathy Flaherty** (CLRP); **Brian Foley**; **Alice Forrester** (Clifford Beers); **Vanessa Gretchen Raffa** (Planned Parenthood); **Tracy Knofla**; **Kim Martone** (Office Health Strategy); **Ashley McAuliffe**; **Nichelle Mullins** (Charter Oak Health Center); **Lucy Nolan**; **Shelly Nolan** (DMHAS); **Sarah Normandie**; **Donna Palomba** (Jane Doe No More); **Paola Serrecchia** (The Hope Family Justice Center of Greater New Haven); **Jane Siegel** (for OHS Executive Director Victoria Veltri); **Donna Sodipo** (YWCA, Hartford); **Marie Spivey** (SEET Consultants, LLC); **Yvette Young**

Visitors/Presenters: **Ashley Starr Frechette** - CCADV; **Tina Courpas** - Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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

MINUTES

Topic	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	Commissioners Dorantes, Bye and Delphin-Rittmon welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at around 10:00 AM.	
Review and approval of Minutes from Last Meeting	Commissioner Bye asked for review and approval of the October 5 th , 2020 meeting minutes. All approved.	Approved
Updates – Lightening Round Tri-Chairs, Members - 1-2 minutes on an exciting initiative or great day-to-day work that your organization is embarking on to enhance the health and safety of women and girls.	Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon announced that DMHAS is working on launching the CT Parents Recovering from Opioid Use Disorder (PROUD) grant which is a 3-year grant from SAMHSA. The Providers that will be working and providing services with this grant are Intercommunity Mental Health Center and Wheeler Clinic. The focus will be in the Hartford and New Britain areas. Services that will be offered are substance use treatment, peer recovery support, parenting interventions and also wrap around services and supports. Case management will be provided to women and families and connect them to primary care. DMHAS also has a public awareness anti-stigma campaign on Facebook associated with women who are pregnant and struggling with opioids. Commissioner Bye talked about the CT Cares for Workforce Development Program	

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	<p>where OEC has \$5Million to administer the program. OEC is collaborating with the Women’s Business Development Center to provide grants to childcare programs that are in danger of closing. They have about 160 family child care homes in process of being licensed.</p> <p>Commissioner Dorantes updated that although the DCF CARELINE volume is down the DCF COVID-19 website has been visited by over 25,000 unique URLs where information on statewide resources are categorized for access by the general public. Many families led by a female head of household have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. They need supports not more surveillance.</p> <p>Mary Cooper from CHA announced that they recently kicked off an event on Alliance for Innovation and Maternal Health and it was a great conference with numerous participants. This is making labor and birthing safer for women. The focus is hypertension for the first bundle.</p> <p>Kathleen Callahan of the CT Women’s Consortium stated that in the coming days they will show a film “Push Out – The Criminalization of Black Girls”, for live streaming. On the fourth day after the live streaming, Sen. Marilyn Moore will moderate a State panel discussion on the film.</p> <p>Representative Borer reminded everyone that as Chairwoman of the bipartisan caucus, they have been meeting every two weeks and it is a great opportunity to go in front of both the Democrats and Republicans of the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) to let them know what is going on with the agencies, and provide information on grants that the caucus members can take back to their constituents. She asked if anyone is interested in participating in their meetings to let her know.</p> <p>Donna Palomba, from Jane Doe No More, which is a non-profit that empowers survivors of sexual crimes to find their voice, enhance their healing and educate others, have been doing more virtual meetings since the pandemic. They now have virtual programs where they can speak to schools, from middle school to college, about healthy v. unhealthy relationships, consent and bystander intervention. The organization is all survivor-led and they have a closed Facebook group page specifically for survivors of sexual crimes. It is a non-judgement zone where the group can provide inspiration and support.</p>	

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	<p>Paola Serrecchia, from The Hope Family Justice Center of Greater New Haven, provide free wrap-around services with over sixty-two partners delivering direct and immediate services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and crimes. Due to the pandemic, there has been an uptick of these crimes and hospitalizations so the organization has been able to work with the hospitals, DCF, law enforcement, legal attorneys, community action agencies, counselors and advocates to help provide direct services.</p> <p>Donna Sodipo, from YWCA Hartford region, said they have a virtual YWLC leadership development program, for girls ages 13 to 18, to re-engage students back into the school system. They discuss racial justice, gender equity and also do a lot of work around advocacy and empowering young women. The program started during the summer and has been very successful.</p> <p>Marie Spivey talked about the work with the Opioid Task Force grant in New Britain and meeting with health providers, emergency responders and the city health department. She said a faith-based organization has also been created to work with substance abusers and its very active right now. More work will be done with CMHA.</p>	
Presentation: CCADV	<p>Ashley Starr Frechette from CCADV presented on what CCADV has been during the COVID-19 pandemic. CT Safe Connect and their 18 member organizations remained open 24/7 to serve victims and survivors of IPV. Contacts have increased by more than 30%. They made a shift to remote communication and mobile advocacy to support the increase in volume. As the state began to open in June they saw an increase in complexity of cases and call volume. The isolation created by COVID-19 has been a trigger for some victims/survivors, even when violence is not present. Safe Connect and member programs were able to file restraining order applications completely online while the courthouses were closed or with reduced hours. They also continue to provide emergency shelter to victims of DV. People in need for additional information or just looking for someone to talk to can call 1-888-774-2900 or live chat and email at www.CTSafeConnect.org open 24/7.</p>	
Presentation: Permanent Commission on the Status of Women	<p>Tina Courpas from Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) also presented. She said the mission of PCSW is to provide expertise, research and resource to improve the lives of women and girls in CT. The current data collection initiative that the commission is working on is, ‘The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on CT’s Women’. The goal is to gather facts and data to understand how COVID-19 has affected CT’s women. The data collected will be included in a report that will be shared with the</p>	

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	<p>Governor’s office, CGA, and other organizations that serve women. Some national statistics that are affecting women during COVID-19 include job loss, childcare enrollment and wages. The final report will be available the first quarter of 2021. Additional information and survey can be found online at: www.pcswct.org</p>	
<p>Legislative Proposal Discussion</p>	<p>Janet Solfi Alfano, Executive Director of The CT Diaper Bank shared a legislative proposal with the sub-committee. The legislation will allow for a program that provides diapers through a network of providers. Diapers are truly essential both for the health and well-being of children and mothers and also for access to early care and education. Over the last 16 years, The CT Diaper Bank has been working on providing diapers and at the same time looking for other solutions that are more sustainable and built into the infrastructure of overall services and health needs that are provided to families. With this proposal, The CT Diaper Bank is looking to have the program serve as a pilot demonstration of the true connection between providing diapers and providing help. The pilot program will quantify the need in both health and cost savings in providing diapers through Medicaid. As part of the proposal, diapers will be provided for all births at Yale New Haven Hospital and babies receiving care at the Yale Pediatric Primary Care Center from January 2021 through June 2021. The proposal establishes a demonstration program for a bundled payment to support effective interventions that are proven to reduce maternal depression and increase the health and well-being of babies. This payment structure could potentially reduce Medicaid costs through reductions in diaper dermatitis, urinary tract infections for the child and reduction of acute maternal child visits for the mom.</p>	
<p>Other Legislative Proposals Discussion</p>	<p>Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon announced that anyone with legislative proposal ideas should feel free to fill out the proposal form and submit to the Tri-Chairs.</p>	
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>Marie Spivey will contact CT League for Nursing to do a presentation at the next sub-committee meeting.</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am</p>	<p>Future Subcommittee Meetings:</p> <p>Future subcommittee meetings are scheduled on Microsoft TEAMS until further notice.</p> <p>Such meetings will occur</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
		<p>every first Monday of every other month beginning February 1st, 2021.</p> <p>Upcoming subcommittee meetings dates and times in 2021 are as follows: Feb. 1, 2021 10am-noon; April 5, 2021 10am-noon; June 7, 2021 10am – noon; August 2, 2021 10am-noon; October 4, 2021 10am-noon; December 6, 2021 10am-noon</p>