

COUNCIL ON WOMEN & GIRLS- SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & SAFETY

DATE: October 4, 2021

TIME/ LOCATION: 10:00am - 12:00 pm/ Microsoft TEAMS

Meeting Members/Designees/Attendees:

Vannessa Dorantes (Subcommittee Co-Chair: Comm. DCF); **Maggie Adair** (Office of Early Childhood); **Valencia Bagby-Young** (for Comm. Jordan Scheff, DDS); **Anne Bonito** (Legal Div of OEC); **Sharonda Carlos** (Deputy Comm- DOC); **Astread Poole-Ferron** (DSS); **Lucy Nolan** (CT Alliance for Sexual Violence); **Donna Palomba** (Jane Doe No More); **Jane Siegel** (Staff Attorney DVA); **Marie Spivey** (SEET Consultants, LLC); **Ashley Starr Frechette** (CCADV); **Terra Volpe** (CT Against Gun Violence); **Yvette Young** (Village for Family & Children); **Vincent Russo** (DCF, Legislative Program Director); **Brian Foley** (DESPP); **Gretchen Raffin** (Planned Parenthood); **Janet Stolfi Afano** (CT Diaper Bank); **Janet Hagen** (3 Rivers Comm College); **Marian Evans** (SCSU); Shelly Nolan; **Manisha Juthani** (Comm. DPH); **Marian Evans**; Kim Martone (Deputy Director Health Strategy), Ashley McAuliffe; **Shelly Nolan** (DMHAS); **Mary Mason** (for Nancy Navaretta DMHAS); **Alice Forrester** (Clifford Beers); Hillary Felton-Reid; Karen Walton; **Marie Spivey** (Systems Consultant Equity Education & Transition)

Recorder: Aletha Minnis (Department of Children & Families)

MINUTES

Topic	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	Commissioner Dorantes welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at around 10:00 AM.	
Review and Approval of minutes from last meeting	Minutes from last meeting be reviewed for accuracy. Will post to the subcommittee link on the committee's website once everyone gets a chance to weigh in on the minutes from the last meeting	Deferred
Legislative Updates – Members, Agencies	<p>2 Awareness(es) this month.</p> <p>1. Breast Cancer Awareness Month - Comm. Dorantes spoke on the importance of early detection and how it saved her life in 2019. It's important to bring awareness to not only our state but in our personal capacity. CT has one of the highest rates of breast cancer in the country; we need to make sure that all women and girls know the importance of mammography and early detection to try and bring down that ranking. Attached is a link to the CT Department of Public Health Website that they maintain regularly with stats and statistics on breast cancer for treatment and assessment here in CT (portal.ct.gov)</p> <p>2. Domestic Violence Month - - Ashley Star-Frechette of CCADV gave information on "Purple Thursday" 10/21/21, encouraging everyone to wear purple and they have created a hashtag (#purplethursday). Anyone who wears purple they will post individuals and offices that send in pictures with the hashtag. In 2019 merged all 22 of the statewide hotlines into 1 statewide hotline CT SafeConnect 888-774-2900 24/7 service; live advocate or email: ctsafeconnect.org http://www.ctcadv.org/files/8216/2992/1789/LocalVolunteerDonationPacket8.21.pdf this link has information in their 18 member organizations, and you can scroll down to the center in your area to see their events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If you have any questions on how you can get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out astarrfrechette@ctcadv.org</p> <p>Purple Thursday for Domestic Violence Awareness Month this year. 10/21/21 #PURPLETHURSDAY http://www.ctcadv.org/training-events/purple-thursday/ And we are always available for trainings/sending resources http://www.ctcadv.org/files/5115/9499/5962/Training_Available_flyer_7.20.pdf</p>	

<p>Legislative Advocacy</p>	<p>Vincent Russo DCF, Mary Kate Mason DMHAS, and Maggie Adair OEC-- Joint presentation on Legislative Advocacy. They work regularly and in sync at the legislative building at the Capitol to advance our agencies' bills and proposals in general for health and human services for the administration. With a diverse group like WG--H&S is important when thinking about promoting and advocating for or against things.</p> <p>Vincent Russo - Actively working on passing good polices and stopping bad policies. Vincent's role is the legislative director at DCF, he works on the legislative agenda that they push forward every session. Along with that he works with and collaborating with other agencies to push forward other ideas and initiatives to get bills passed. Loves this forum because it gives everyone the opportunity to share and strategize ideas.</p> <p>Mary Kate Mason - this committee has always been active working at causes and practices that can promote women and girls and nationally there are a lot of concerns for women and girls so it's important that attention is paid to policies that need to be pushed forward on a national level. This committee is a large group has a lot of powerful voices and we welcome to opportunity to use those voices to promote women and girls in an individual capacity or on behalf of the group. Legislators if they hear from a lot of people, they can be easily swayed to adopt the policy vs that being promoted by just a few people. Not a lot of people raise voices when it's time for legislative activities. Great group and we can do a lot of things with this powerful group individually and collectively.</p> <p>Maggie Adair - It's a wonderful opportunity when a state agency can collaborate and work with outside organizations and push for an initiative. One thing about passionate advocacy is that when you don't have an answer, be honest and say you don't know have the answer and will get back when you have it. It builds trust and respect.</p> <p>Vincent - Be trustworthy, your word is your biggest asset at the Capital.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When you don't know the answer 2. Get the answer 3. When you finally get the answer, let it be correct <p>Working virtually/remotely was somewhat difficult. It's different than being in the capitol able to hear something in the hall and run to talk to someone right before the vote. Virtually you must email, call or text someone and cc: a staffer, it's difficult to get through sometimes when calling be don't be discouraged keep pushing forward. Being remote we saw more participation in the public hearing process. Legislators were seeing and hearing more testimonies than ever before. Which was a beautiful thing.</p> <p>Comm Dorantes -During public hearings there were a lot of young girls/young women who stepped up in a leadership capacity in real ways; whether they were representing their schools, municipalities, or a civic organization. There were so many young people getting their practice in advocating and they did extremely well. Young people's voices go a long way in advocacy.</p>	
<p>Questions:</p>	<p>NONE</p>	
<p>Topics of Discussion</p>	<p>* Janet Stolfi-Alfano - 2 questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing Pilot Program round a bundle payment to Medicaid that passed last session. Within that pilot structure can funds be used to the diaper program for infants and toddlers. A question on the process, would this be legislative or administrative? <i>Contact DSS they are the state's Medicaid administrator, that would be the best start to see if there is room in the pilot for the diaper program</i> alvin.wilson@ct.gov is the DSS legislative contact 2. (Proposal that will be put forward again in 2022, that didn't get through in 2020 regarding youth who have passion around period projects in middle and high schools.) <i>Go back to the year it was proposed and review all the testimony that was given in relation to that bill, there you can see where you had a weak link in your</i> 	

	<p><i>proposal, or strong opponent and you can see where their opposition are and you can try to address those oppositions to make you proposal more palpable (Do Research)</i></p> <p><i>Research to see where it went awry. Find the bill from last year and scroll down review all the testimony along with it.</i></p> <p><i>*Sometimes it takes 3 years for a bill to pass so don't be discouraged when it doesn't pass the 1st year</i></p> <p>* Ashley Frechette - 2 Asks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To mandate all state employees to be trained on IPV in the workplace within 6 months of hire. This is based off many factors but in 2005 96% of female victims reported domestic abuse effected their ability to perform their jobs while 60% stated that they loss their jobs do to abuse. In 2008 94% of corporate security and safety directors ranked domestic violence as a security concern. And the CDC reports that loss productivity due to domestic violence. Will be working the commission on human rights and opportunity in collaboration with themselves and will offer education and services for free. 2. Will put forward again as in the past Domestic Violence Child/Family Advocates. 18 member organizations so will be looking to find 18 Child/Family advocates. This is based on the state of CT, State police Family Violence arrest report. Children under the age18 are present at 1,474 violent incidents. It's important that children who experience violence in the home to get the comprehensive care and help that meets their individual needs and help move the family forward. <p>Marian Evan: Are there state employees that are not trained on "Not Any More"? Or are some trained and others not? Or is it the timing?</p>	
Topics	Terra Volpe - CT on gun violence came to the last meeting and talked about the impact of gun violence on families, mothers, and children. Explained that part of the CT Initiative to End Gun Violence was attached to SB1 the idea is to establish an office of gun violence prevention. Would like to get that done through executive order as soon as possible sooner than later because there is great need. Would like to add that to consideration.	
Committee Updates	Just a reminder that the templates have been sent put to the committee, please fill them out and send back to Comm Beth Bye (<i>none rec'd thus far</i>)	
October Activities or Forums to be Disseminated to our distribution list:	<p>Breast Health, Breast Cancer Risk Factors and Symptoms, Breast Cancer Screening, and Resources</p> <p>Many women believe their chance of getting breast cancer is far greater than it is. Based on a recent survey, Connecticut women think they have a 40% (1 in 2.5) chance of getting breast cancer some time in their life,¹ when the true lifetime risk is only around 12% (1 in 8).² Although breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women, more women die from lung cancer than from breast cancer. Moreover, heart disease kills 8 times more women each year than breast cancer. (See Breast Cancer in Connecticut.)</p> <p>In most cases, it is not known why some women get breast cancer and others do not. There are some instances, though, when breast cancer seems to run in families. A woman with close relatives who have or had breast cancer might benefit from genetic testing. (See Genetic Testing for Breast and Ovarian Cancers.) Portal.ct.gov</p>	
Announcement	CHA will be facilitating a training, in partnership with DMHAS & DCF related to CAPTA entitled Supporting, Not Reporting: Revisiting CAPTA and Plans of Safe Care through Provider Practice and Patient Empowerment. Here is the registration link: Register for a Course (school-network.net)	
Adjournment	<p>The meeting adjourned around 10:50am.</p> <p>Future Subcommittee Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 6, 2021 10am-noon 	