

Governor’s Council on Women and Girls Full Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

3:00 PM In-Person: LOB, 300 Capitol Ave, Room 1E, Hartford, CT

Video available here:

<https://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=22472>

I. Welcome

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

All council members present introduced themselves and the agency/office they represented.

II. Presentation by Synchrony on Gender Initiatives (Kinjal Desai, Senior VP Internal Audit, Synchrony) (see Attachment 1)

Synchrony prides itself by its high achievements when it comes to the incorporation of gender and racial diversity, inclusion, and equity in their workplace. The company’s initiative promotes support and have the values of equity and inclusion at the forefront of their mission. EDIC North Star tracks the goals of the company to achieve 50% female and other gender diversity in the workplace and all groups globally as well as evolving education as an equalizer by incorporating workshops to work with local teen students. Synchrony has almost achieved pay equity in the US and work to maintain this goal. Synchrony prioritizes working with the community alongside their employees.

Synchrony works with their employees and working families by ensuring flexible work schedules and environments, wellness coaches, a diverse network of support groups and gender affirming benefits.

Synchrony is a place where all people’s needs are met and ensure the equal and open access to all resources needed for women and people of color.

Additional details can be found in presentation and video.

III. SOS Presentation re Gender/Racial Composition Board/Commissions Report (Jacqueline Kozin, Deputy Secretary of State) (see Attachment 2)

Lt. Governor Bysiewicz led the passing of the 1993 bill requiring all boards and committees to report the racial and gender makeup of their committees in writing to ensure and furthering of accurate representation of and within the state. The gender gap is closing within these committees

along with the increase of diversity. However, there are over 90 vacancies on these boards which leaves a huge opportunity for improvement in gender and racial equity.

IV. Governor Presentation re Needs of Board/Commissions (Tom Scanlon, Director of Appointments)

Presentation tabled to April 9th CoWaG meeting.

V. Report from Council Leadership/Subcommittee Reports

Annual Report Summaries are available online: <https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/Working-Groups/Governors-Council-on-Women-and-Girls>

VI. Announcements

a. Upcoming Events/Deadlines

- i. CoWag Panel on Pathways process in Divorce, Custody, and Visitation Cases within the Judicial Branch: January 23rd from 1-2:30 pm
- ii. Panel on Laws on Female Genitalia Mutilation and Cutting: January 25th at 11am

b. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- i. Economic Opportunity and Workforce: February 6th
- ii. Education and Steam: February 14th at 3pm
- iii. Health and Safety: March 4th at 10am
- iv. Leadership: March 20th at 3pm
- v. Full Council Meeting: April 9th at 3pm (Virtual), July 9th (Hybrid)

VII. Adjournment

- a. Lt. Governor adjourned the meeting at 3:57 pm.