

Governor's Council on Women and Girls
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity
June 17, 2021 @ 3pm
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

- I. Greetings and Opening Remarks
 - a. Lt. Governor states that regular session concluded last week and that a special session concluded earlier today, noting that strong advocacy during session and the bi-partisan budget is reflective of the Governor's and her priorities for equity, government efficiency, fiscal responsibility and building the state economy. She further notes that [SB 883](#), Recommendations from the Governor's Council on Women and Girls, passed with bipartisan support and that Rep. Borer, Sen. Flexer, Rep. Farrar, Secretary of the State's Office, Vote Mama Foundation, YWCA and Caitlin Pereira all played roles in helping the legislation pass. Lt. Governor asks that people save the date for the ceremonial bill signing anticipated for next Thursday at 11am. She then describes other legislation endorsed by the Council that also passed both houses.
 - b. Lt. Governor invites people to use chat function for announcements
- II. Status of Subcommittee Work
 - a. Lt. Governor introduces Deputy Housing Commissioner Shante Hanks
 - b. S. Hanks notes that the HCDLI is accepting applications for next cohort and the website is live (<https://www.hcdli.org/>). She further notes that for the next meeting she will have updates on partnerships.
 - c. Lt. Governor introduces Kathleen Titsworth from Department of Banking
 - d. K. Titsworth reports that the financial literacy group met end of May and they are focusing on updating the portal with additional resources. She further notes that they are looking to focus on families, older adults, and the underserved population and that they have a new working group member.
 - e. Lt. Governor introduces DECD Deputy Commissioner Glendowlyn Thames
 - f. G. Thames notes initiatives in support of entrepreneurs and small businesses prioritizing women- and minority- owned businesses. New initiatives include funding opportunities for startups with the new 150 million-dollar future fund, launching new access to capital and technical assistance. She notes that she will follow up with more details.
- III. Presentations from Steering Committee Members
 - a. Lt. Governor acknowledges second anniversary next month of Steering Committee announcement, noting collaborative efforts, and asks for continued engagement in advancing the purpose of the Subcommittee
 - b. Lt. Governor introduces Lana Gifas, Exec. Dir. for Women's Mentoring Network

- c. L. Gifas presents (see Attachment 1); during the presentation L. Gifas:
 - i. Further notes that services can be offered both one-on-one and in the form of workshops, they now also offer computer and digital literacy to address the digital divide, and they've always had a food pantry to help clients stretch budget throughout the month.
 - ii. Shares contact information in chat: lgifas@wmninc.org; 203-348-3828
 - iii. Shares in chat that they will host a Career Exploration Series this summer and invites people to reach out to her if interested
 - d. Lt. Governor introduces Brenda Thickett, VP of Programs and Business Services for Women's Business Development Council, noting that the State has worked on a number of projects with WBDC including panel discussions on the availability of economic resources from state and federal governments and local resources and on the Equity Match Grant program
 - e. B. Thickett presents, noting:
 - i. WBDC has been around for almost 25yrs providing support to women entrepreneurs and small business owners across the state.
 - ii. WBDC has three offices in Stamford (headquarters), New London, and New Haven and they service the whole state.
 - iii. Three areas of service are:
 - 1. Education and training to help women start and grow their businesses including how to create business plans and providing information about financial resources;
 - 2. One-on-one business advising to help small businesses develop and overcome challenges; and
 - 3. The opportunity fund, a funding resource for small businesses, including the Equity Match Grant which provides grants of \$10,000 for projects that will help businesses grow.
 - iv. WBDC has more recently been involved in supporting childcare providers with technical assistance and funding
 - f. Lt. Governor introduces Andrea Barton-Reeves, CEO of CT Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority
 - g. A. Barton-Reeves presents (see Attachment 2)
 - i. Lt. Governor asks what information people get from LinkedIn
 - ii. A. Barton-Reeves explains that it speaks to the benefit of paid leave for businesses and employees and that it targets small businesses
- IV. Announcements
- a. Lt. Governor notes that the next full council meeting is July 13th at 3pm
 - b. Lt. Governor notes that next Subcommittee meeting is August 11th at 3pm
 - c. Lt. Governor reminds that [SB 883](#) ceremonial bill signing is next Thursday at 11
 - d. Lt. Governor confirms that there are no further announcements
- V. Lt. Governor adjourns at apx. 3:33pm

Attendance Report

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz
Dep. Commissioner Shante Hanks
Dep. Commissioner Glendowlyn Thames
Tara Downes
Dep. Commissioner Kim Martone
Shannon Wegele
Kathleen Titsworth
Astread Ferron-Poole
Commissioner Michelle Seagull
Commissioner Amy Porter

Council Chair, Subcommittee Co-Chair
Subcommittee Co-Chair, DOH
Subcommittee Co-Chair, DECD
Subcommittee Co-Chair, Office of State Comptroller
Subcommittee Co-Chair, OHS
Office of the Secretary of the State
Department of Banking
Department of Social Services
Department of Consumer Protection
Department of Aging and Disability Services