

Governor's Council on Women and Girls - Full Council Meeting
MEETING MINUTES

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

Tuesday October 15, 2025 at 3:00pm

Video Available Here via YouTube: [Click to Watch](#)

I. Welcome & Opening Remarks

The Lt. Governor called the meeting to order at 3:04pm, welcomed new members, and thanked former Vice Chair DCF Commissioner Jodi Hill-Lilly for her service to the state and her time on the council. She introduced Interim DCF Commissioner Susan Hamilton, who issued welcoming remarks.

II. Presentation: 'How Community Action Spurs Economic Opportunity for Women Throughout the Lifespan', TEAM Inc. - David Morgan, Emily Pena, Lillian McKenzie, and Jillian Ruisi

TEAM Inc. has 19 partners, all of which are women-owned businesses. These licensed family childcare providers make it possible to offer high quality HeadStart services to families in the city of Waterbury. Services include ongoing coaching, professional development, access to tools and trainings that enhance care quality, access to early screenings in the home, developmental support, and age-appropriate activities.

Their network includes 400 licensed family childcare homes in their regions, with 99.5% being women-owned businesses.

GAIN is a program offered by TEAM Inc. that supports economic mobility for community members, specifically women. The Housing Wage in CT is over \$35 an hour, which is difficult for people to meet. In addition to addressing the higher cost of living, TEAM wants to ensure people have good-paying jobs. Lack of access to childcare can be a barrier to women entering and staying in the workforce. Another barrier is the training and education required for some of these good-paying jobs. GAIN stands for Gaining Access to Independence Now, and the program helps to address the cost of tuition for trainings and courses. They work with their clients to not only cover the cost of their training, but to identify and address barriers that could hinder their careers.

TEAM Inc. also works to support the economic security and well-being of older adult women. They operate a Meals on Wheels program to give meals to homebound seniors along with Congregate and Café meal programs to seniors to promote building community.

They also offer an Adult Incontinence Program provides half a month supply of products to lessen that financial strain. Additional programs they offer include a homemaking service, volunteer caregiving, medical transportation, and case-management. These programs strive to reduce household expenditures and improve economic conditions.

A primary goal of TEAM Inc is to go beyond being a relief-giving organization and address the root causes behind why people are struggling.

III. Presentation: ‘Building Confident, Inclusive, Career-Ready Women Leaders’, LIVE GIRL – Sheri West

LIVE GIRL works to build confident, career-ready female leaders. They provide free leadership, mentorship, and career readiness programming to women ages 10-22 across the state of Connecticut. All of their programs are evidence-based and work to build skills needed for these young women to thrive.

Specific Programs:

- a. She Works: College career-readiness and internship program
 - a. Provides paid internships, career readiness training, mentorship, networking events, and social capital to help women excel once they enter the workforce
- b. She Cares: Virtual program that supports the mental wellness of young women
 - a. Offers free mentoring and educational workshops
 - b. Thirty-minute weekly meetings over Zoom between mentees and their mentors

Staff members, mentors, and mentees provided testimonials to how their experiences with LIVE GIRL has left a lasting impact on their lives. Since 2014, they have served over 20,000 girls and helped them with their personal and professional development. They strive to provide equal opportunities for women and girls across the state, regardless of their background.

IV. Announcements

- a. Summarized the process for submitting legislative proposals**
 - i. Full council and subcommittee members send their proposals to subcommittee chairs or Tracy Opoku; chairs review the proposals, send them to the Lt. Governor and CoWaG co-chair for review, and the Governor does final review
 - ii. Proposals must be submitted before the January full council meeting
- b. Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings:**
 - i. Leadership Meeting: December 3rd, 2025, 3:00pm on Microsoft TEAMS
 - ii. Economic Opportunity and Workforce Equity Meeting: November 4th, 2025, 3:00pm on Microsoft TEAMS
 - iii. Education and STEAM Meeting: November 12th, 2025, 3:00pm on Microsoft TEAMS

- iv. Health and Safety Meeting: December 1st, 2025, 10:00am on Microsoft TEAMS

V. Adjournment

The Lt. Governor ended the meeting at 4:10pm.