

COUNCIL ON WOMEN & GIRLS- SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & SAFETY

DATE: Monday, October 7th, 2019

TIME/ LOCATION: 9:00am - 11:00 am/ Legislative Office Building, Room 1D

Members/Designees: **Beth Bye** (Subcommittee Tri-Chair, Office of Early Childhood); **Miriam Delphin-Rittmon** (Subcommittee Tri-Chair, Dept. Mental Health & Addiction Services); **Yadira Ijeh** (for Vanessa Dorantes, Subcommittee Tri-Chair, Dept. of Children & Families); **Renée Coleman-Mitchell** (Department of Public Health); **Karin Bent**, (OEC); **Brian Foley** (Dept Emergency Services/Pubic Protection); **Kim Martone** (Office Health Strategy); **Patrice Olson** (Dept. of Veteran’s Affairs), **Colette Anderson**, (CT Women’s Consortium); **Jordana Frost**, (March of Dimes, CT, RI); **Donna Palomba** (Jane Doe No More); **Melissa Kane** (CAGV); **Ashley Starr Frechette** (CCADV); **Beth Hamilton** (CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence); **Hilary Felton Reid** (Robinson Cole); **Candace Barriteau-Phaire** (CCSU); **Kathy Flaherty** (CLRP); **Karen DuBois-Walton** (Elm City Communities/Housing Authority); **Janet Alfano** (The Diaper Bank); **Gretchen Raffa** (Planned Parenthood), **Marie M. Spivey** (SEET Consultants, LLC); **Althea Bates** (Project Resiliency Movement); **Deborah Davis** (Mothers United Against Violence); **Sharonda Carlos** (for Rollin Cook, DOC); **Valencia Bagby-Young** (for Jordan Scheff, DDS).

Visitors/Presenters:

Melisa Kane (Connecticut Against Gun Violence)

Recorder:

Marilyn Duran (Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services)

MINUTES

Topic	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	Commissioner Bye welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 09:06 AM. All committee members, designees and attendees introduced themselves. Commissioner Bye mentioned that Commissioner Dorantes could not be at the meeting but was part of the meeting planning last week.	
Overview of Minutes from Last Meeting	Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon asked for review and approval of the August 2019 meeting minutes. All approved. Marie M. Spivey noted her name was spelt incorrectly and that it has been resolved.	Approved
Review of Outcomes from last meeting	At the last meeting there were discussions on prioritizing issues for the people of Connecticut and the agencies and organizations that the subcommittee represents. Commissioner Bye mentioned that by far, the most common issues that came up were: mental health and substance abuse supports for women and girls, systemic racism and discrimination in health care and access to reproductive health and	Subcommittee will keep these top issues in mind when thinking about what is missing from the legislative

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	<p>resources. A word cloud was created that showed that words like: Education, Health, Data, Safety, Care, Access, was the most commonly used words in the subgroup meetings. Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon reminded the group to think about cross-cutting issues like Data, Access and Health as the discussions continues.</p>	<p>proposals.</p>
<p>Presentation: Social and Emotional Health</p>	<p>Melissa Kane of Connecticut Against Gun Violence gave a presentation on social emotional health and talked about three bills that passed last legislative session that addressed gun violence prevention. She talked about (1) Ethan’s law which strengthens requirements on the safe storage of firearms in the home; (2) HB 7223 which requires safe storage of a pistol or revolver in a motor vehicle; and (3) HB 7219 which bans guns without serial numbers and regulates those which are sold in a form requiring the purchaser to finish assembly or that are homemade or 3-D printed.</p> <p>Individuals and stakeholder groups worked very closely with the Lt. Governor on some bills that address opioid addiction treatment and helped pass House Bills 7125, 7159 and 5524.</p> <p>Data shows evidence-based programs that teach life skills to children from an early age can reduce substance abuse by 75%; alcohol use by 60%; violence by 50% and smoking by 87%.</p> <p>It was mentioned that if the focus is on prevention rather than intervention it would make a large impact. By providing better support earlier and teaching children coping skills for navigating life we could address the root causes of all problems and in turn help build resilience and self-esteem at an early age. Thought was put into how children in every community should have equitable access to this type of programming.</p> <p>A bill has been proposed on an act concerning life skills education curriculum to institute social, emotional, and learning programs in schools and communities from Pre-K to adulthood. Melissa talked about looking for advice and buy-in from organizations, advocates and experts and asking questions about what supports exist already, what works, what doesn’t and what the wish list could look like. What is the best approach for making sure all the various stakeholders including the Board of Education are working collectively towards a goal to institute life skills and resilience building preventive curriculum in our schools and communities? A</p>	<p>This will be an on-going discussion for the subcommittee.</p> <p>The focus could be on finding funding to implement existing legislation statewide.</p>

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	<p>question was also raised around identifying funding for this initiative. There were discussions from the subcommittee and attendees, notably, the high cost of not providing social emotional skills in the long run.</p> <p>Kathy Flaherty from CLRP pointed out that there is a law in place CGS 10-16b that addresses the subject.</p>	
<p>Review of Legislative Proposals Submitted</p> <p>a. Discussion by submitting organizations</p> <p>b. Questions, input</p>	<p>There were discussions on proposals that subcommittee members submitted to the Tri-Chairs.</p> <p>A proposal was submitted for creating a healthy moms fund for effective interventions for maternal depression among low income mothers. The idea for funding was proposed to come from E-cigarettes sales.</p> <p>Two more proposals were submitted from Dr. Frost of the March of Dimes, in partnership with several organizations including but not limited to: Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, the Statewide Coalition for Doulas in CT and the Maternal and Child Health Coalition. The proposals were centered on maternal health and the reduction of perinatal health disparities. The two proposals submitted are aimed at increasing access to two categories of professions - Doulas and Midwives; who have shown to improve outcomes and reduce maternal health disparities for women. One proposal addresses pay parity for certified midwives in CT. The other proposal addresses increasing and improving access to doula care for improved outcomes. Commissioner Renée Coleman-Mitchell noted that this is an opportunity to make a difference in Maternal and Child Health and said that Sen. Moore and Sen. Flexer are very interested in these topics. Commissioner Bye noted that the bill addresses equity.</p> <p>It was mentioned that there is a proposal been worked on to address period supplies. Commissioner Bye asked if there was any knowledge among subcommittee members of other groups moving these proposals forward. She will reach out to Senator Abrams and Senator Bergstein to see if they have a proposal to share or offer additional input.</p> <p>The subcommittee tri-chairs will have a discussion with the Lt. Governor' Office about the changes in federal law for access to choice.</p> <p>Karen DuBois-Walton of Elm City Communities/Housing Authority mentioned that they would like to submit two proposals; one, on funding and providing mental health recovery coach services in all Emergency Rooms in CT and a second on Telehealth services and access.</p>	<p>Proposals will be sent to subcommittee members.</p>

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	<p>Commissioner Bye mentioned that child sexual abuse legislation that removes the statutes of limitations is an issue that legislatures have not been able to pass. She asked if members are interested in submitting a proposal.</p>	
<p>Discussion of next steps</p>	<p>Legislative proposals submitted will be sent to the committee for feedback and enhancement.</p> <p>Melisa Kane will chair a subcommittee on the proposal she submitted.</p> <p>Deborah Davis will work on a legislative proposal on gun violence prevention in urban areas.</p>	
<p>Upcoming events, Council on Women and Girls</p>	<p>On Saturday December 7th, 2019, Galvanize CT is having an all-day program focused on the empowerment of women and girls and is co-hosted by the Council on Women and Girls, the United State of Women and the CT Collective for Women and Girls. The program will be held at Goodwin College.</p> <p>On March 9th 2020, the <i>Resilience</i> film will be shown at the LOB for International Women’s Day and the event is open to the public.</p> <p>A reminder that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and members were encouraged to contact CCADV for more information as well as wear purple to show support. <i>Wear Purple Day</i> is Thursday, October 24th.</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 10:40am.</p>	<p>Future subcommittee meetings: Tuesday December 3rd 2019, 9-11 am, LOB, Room 1D; Monday February 3rd 2020, 10am-12pm, Location TBD</p>