

COUNCIL ON WOMEN & GIRLS- SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & SAFETY

DATE: April 19, 2021

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

Members/Designees/Attendees: **Beth Bye** (Subcommittee Co-Chair: OEC); **Vannessa Dorantes** (Subcommittee Co-Chair: DCF); **Miriam Delphin-Rittmon** (Subcommittee Co-Chair: DMHAS); **Janet Alfano** (The Diaper Bank); **Collette Anderson** (CT Women’s Consortium); **Valencia Bagby-Young** (for Comm. Jordan Scheff, DDS); **Candace Barriteau Phaire**; **Karin Bent**; **Anne Bonito**; **Sharonda Carlos** (for DOC); **Mary Cooper** (CHA); **Tina Courpas** (PCSW); **Matthew Drago** (Yale School of Medicine); **Karen DuBois-Walton** (NH Housing Authority); **Alice Forrester** (Clifford Beers); **Adria Giordano**; **Kim Martone** (Office Health Strategy); **Tammy Marzik** (DVA); **Nichelle Mullins** (Charter Oak Health Center); **Shelly Nolan** (DMHAS); **Sarah Normandie**; **Donna Palomba** (Jane Doe No More); Yvette Young; **Gretchen Raffa** (PPSNE); **Jennifer Serra**; **Jane Siegel** (DVA); **Marie Spivey** (SEET Consultants, LLC); **Ashley Starr Frechette** (CCADV)

Recorder: **Marilyn Duran** (Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services)

MINUTES

Topic	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon, Commissioner Bye and Commissioner Dorantes welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at around 10:00 AM.	
Review and approval of Minutes from Last Meeting	Commissioner Dorantes asked for review and approval of the February 1, 2021 meeting minutes.	Approved
Presentation	Permanent Commission on the Status of Women – Update on ‘The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on CT’s Women’, Tina Courpas: Between October 2020 and February 2021 the Commission conducted a statewide data collection initiative to assess the economic impact of COVID-19 on CT’s women. There were 1,020 women respondents that participated in the survey. The survey was distributed through multiple channels in English and Spanish. Participants answered 30 multiple choice questions and 3 summary free-response questions. Respondents shared how Covid-19 impacted them the most. The areas of economic impact the survey focused on are Work and Pay; Housing and other living security; Healthcare and Health; Personal Safety; and Education. The survey respondent pool was measured against four diversity matrixes, race/ethnicity, household income, age, and geography. For the Work and Pay findings 68.2% of women indicated that their ability to work/return to work was impaired and 16.1% indicated that career advancement had been impaired by Covid-19. For Housing and Food Security 21.3% reported decreased housing security impaired. For Education 68.5% of those who were students or had a student in their home reported an educational impairment; for Healthcare (affordability and accessibility) 35.4% indicated that their healthcare had been negatively	

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	<p>impacted by Covid-19 and 59.3% reported that their health was negatively impacted. 49.8% of survey respondents reported an impairment of their mental health due to COVID-19; For Personal Safety (domestic violence) 14.1% reported that they or someone they knew was in a domestic violence situation; for Workplace Safety 59.1% cited inadequate workplace regulations such as social distancing, mask wearing and other COVID-19 precautions as the driver.</p> <p>Some of the recommendations for health and safety:</p> <p>Healthcare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expand access to telehealth services and encourage insurance companies to reimburse for telehealth visits in par with in-person visits -Elevate awareness of the importance of mental health issues on par with significant physical health issues <p>Personal Safety/Domestic Violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Update and modernize the definition of domestic violence to include “Coercive Control” in both the restraining order process and as a significant factor in divorce and custody proceedings -Support Judicial branch efforts to make family court more efficient and educated regarding domestic violence and less susceptible to being misused -Continue COVID-era policy that restraining orders may be filed remotely and do not require verification by a Notary Public <p>For more information on the economic impact of Covid-19 on CT women visit: www.pcswct.org or info@pcwct.org</p>	
<p>American Rescue Plan - OEC Updates</p>	<p>Commissioner Bye provided an update on the American Rescue Plan (ARP). She said the Governor wants to use the ARP for access to free and affordable child care for families in workforce development and for middle class families. He plans to use \$50 million of the Corona virus relief funds and OEC funds. The cost will be \$50 million for affordable child care for families in workforce development and \$26 million for middle class families and the timeline is up to 2 years. The Governor has also committed support for families that qualify for Care 4 Kids; OEC in working with United Way will be making those payments for the next 8 months. The Smart Start Expansion for the next 3 years, will add 900 public preschool spaces for families, provide free or very low-cost education and care, help parents re-enter the workforce and provide free summer preschool for families in state funded school readiness programs. At the end of April, \$120 million in grants will be given to 4,000 child care providers. CT will pay providers significantly more for higher quality care by providing incentive programs to seek accreditation and give parents more buying power in higher quality settings as well as support school readiness. CT will lead the nation in high quality child care by 2023.</p>	

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Committee Updates	<p>Commissioner Dorantes shared this link https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Print-Materials-Library for information on vaccine allocation and materials people can access and share. She also shared that both she and Commissioner Bye were privileged to participate in the roundtable with Vice President Kamala Harris when she came to CT. The VP's focus was on the Recovery Act and lifting half of America's children out of poverty. Commissioner Dorantes added that the conversation was primarily on connecting women and girls' issues to the issue of eradicating poverty in children and the subcommittee can discuss this further in future meetings.</p> <p>Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon shared that DMHAS has a big resource and several collaboration pieces with 211 for different services provided such as mobile crisis and other supported services.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.</p> <p>Future Subcommittee Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 7, 2021 10am – noon; • August 2, 2021 10am-noon; • October 4, 2021 10am-noon; • December 6, 2021 10am-noon 	