

Governor's Council on Women and Girls
Full Council Meeting
Tuesday April 12, 2022 @ 3pm

Minutes

- I. Lt. Governor offers greetings and opening remarks:
 - a. Noting that some of today's subcommittee updates will go back to December since subcommittees did not report out during the January full council meeting
 - b. Acknowledging the historical confirmation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson on the United States Supreme Court as the first black woman to serve on the Court and the first time that the nine-member court has four women
 - c. Noting that the State Legislature Judiciary Committee voted in favor of the Governor's 22 nominations to the Superior Court, half of which are women
 - d. Sharing that last month, she recognized more Connecticut employers that signed the Paradigm for Parity Pledge for gender parity in corporate leadership:
 - i. Trinity Health of New England;
 - ii. Yale New Haven Health Systems;
 - iii. Harford Healthcare;
 - iv. The Jackson Laboratory; and
 - v. Pfizer
 - e. Reminding people to note any announcements in the chat function
- II. Report from Council Leadership
 - a. Lt. Governor introduces the new Vice Chair of the Council, Department of Children and Families (DCF) Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes, noting her work as one of the Tri-Chairs of the Health & Safety Subcommittee
 - b. Vice Chair Commissioner Dorantes offers remarks:
 - i. Thanks Lt. Governor, noting the Lt. Governor's leadership and advocacy to address the intersectionality of parity, equity, and inclusion
 - ii. Thanks Council members; public and private partnerships; and Health & Safety Subcommittee co-chairs (acknowledging Commissioner Beth Bye and former Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon)
 - c. Lt. Governor shares changes in Council Subcommittee leadership and notes that these updates are posted on the Council website:
 - i. Office of Health Strategy (OHS) Executive Director Vicki Veltri will now tri-chair Health & Safety Subcommittee with Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Commissioner Bye and Department of Public Health (DPH) Commissioner Manisha Juthani (Vice Chair Dorantes will no longer co-chair)
 - ii. Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity Subcommittee will continue to be co-chaired by Assistant State Comptroller Tara Downes and Department of Housing Deputy Commissioner Shante Hanks but will now also be joined by Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Deputy Commissioner Paul Robertson and Office of Workforce

Strategy's (OWS) Kelli-Marie Vallieres and Laura Baker (Lt. Governor and OHS will no longer co-chair this subcommittee)

- iii. Lt. Governor will Co-Chair Leadership Subcommittee with The Office of the State Treasurer, represented by Jennifer Putetti; State Department of Education (SDE) Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker; and Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Commissioner Michelle Gilman

III. Subcommittee Updates

a. Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity

- i. Lt. Governor presents subcommittee updates (*see Attachment 1*) noting:
 - 1. DECD presentation about resources available to small businesses and the business one stop portal is available as Attachment 1 to February subcommittee minutes
 - 2. OWS presentation about CareerConneCT is available as Attachment 2 to March subcommittee minutes
 - 3. DAS presentation about statewide partnerships is available as an attachment to December subcommittee minutes
 - 4. DCF presentation about the executive fellowship leadership development program is available as an attachment to December subcommittee minutes
 - 5. HAYVN presentation is available as an attachment to February Subcommittee minutes
 - 6. WBDC presentation is available as an attachment to March Subcommittee meeting minutes
- ii. Catherine Blinder shares updated [Financial Literacy Portal](#) in chat where she also notes that agencies can send additions to her and Kathleen Titsworth; Lt. Governor acknowledges National Financial Literacy Month
- iii. Department of Social Services Commissioner Deidre Gifford offers additional remarks on CoveredCT:
 - 1. Application for waiver to Center for Medicare and Medicaid services to obtain funding was approved unanimously by legislative committees and is now under review by the Center
 - 2. When program is implemented, it will provide another no cost health insurance option through the Access Health CT exchange
- iv. C. Blinder shares link to [Skilled Trades Guide](#) in chat, noting that DCP distributed 12,000 copies at CareerConn

b. Education & STEAM

- i. Lt. Governor introduces Office of Higher Education Ex. Dir. Tim Larson
- ii. Dir. Larson presents subcommittee updates (*see Attachment 2*)
- iii. Dir. Larson introduces Jonathan Richter to present the Information HUB
- iv. J. Richter thanks Dir. Larson and Lt. Governor and shares live demo (*see Attachment 2 pages 10 – 12*)

c. Health & Safety

- i. Lt. Governor introduces OEC Commissioner Bye

- ii. Commissioner Bye thanks Commissioner Bartolomeo for raising an issue about challenges with childcare and the healthcare workforce
- iii. Commissioner Bye presents subcommittee updates (*see Attachment 3*)
- iv. Commissioner Juthani notes that healthcare workforce shortages are felt most acutely in the nursing sector. She further notes that long-term and shorter-term solutions are being proposed and expressed hope that this legislative session will start moving the needle to replenish the workforce
- v. Commissioner Bye acknowledges that issues of reduced women in the workforce, and mental health of families, travel across agencies
- vi. Lt. Governor notes large employers that have come up with strategies to increase the nursing workforce:
 - 1. Gaylord partnered directly with colleges and universities to start internship programs
 - 2. Hartford HealthCare just started a partnership with Quinnipiac for nursing student pipelines

d. Leadership

- i. Lt. Governor introduces Leadership Subcommittee updates (*see Attachment 4 pages 1 & 2*)
- ii. Lt. Governor introduces Commissioner Gilman
- iii. Commissioner Gilman presents (*see Attachment 4 pages 3 & 4*) and further describes:
 - 1. Aspiring Leaders program as engaging mid-level managers and others to explore different opportunities and collaboratively participate in different problem-solving initiatives across agencies
 - 2. Linked-In Learning's robust online platform for workforce training
- iv. Lt. Governor presents about women in leadership panel series (*see Attachment 4 pages 5 & 6*)
- v. Lt. Governor introduces Commissioner Russell-Tucker
- vi. Commissioner Russell-Tucker presents (*see Attachment 4 pages 7-9*) and:
 - 1. Notes that [Voice4Change](#) is country's first statewide initiative to put more than \$1 million in the hands of students, giving them an opportunity to help decide how to spend the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding
 - 2. Notes that Lt. Governor joined in announcement of winners
 - 3. Expresses intention to build on this foundation, as part of CoWaG's work, to develop intergenerational leadership
 - 4. Acknowledges SDE's Madi Csejka who led these efforts
- vii. Lt. Governor notes that at each of two high schools she visited, four out of five Voice4Change presenting groups were all girls

IV. Announcements

- a. Lt. Governor shares upcoming subcommittee meeting schedule:
 - i. [Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity](#) is scheduled to meet on May 17th and June 14th both at 3pm;

- ii. [Education & STEAM](#) is also scheduled to meet on both May 17th and June 14th at 3pm;
 - iii. [Health & Safety](#) is scheduled to meet on May 2nd and June 6th both at 10am; and
 - iv. [Leadership](#) is scheduled to meet on May 18th and June 15th both at 3pm.
- b. Lt. Governor shares that a [Full Council](#) meeting is scheduled for July 12th at 3pm
 - c. C. Phoenix-Sharpe introduces new Council designee for Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, Jada Harris
 - d. J. Harris acknowledges that Sec. Merrill had to jump off and notes that she is excited to be the Secretary's designee

V. Lt. Governor adjourns at apx. 4:11pm

Meeting Attendance Report

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz	Chair
Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes	Vice Chair, Department of Children and Families
Sec. Denise Merrill & Jada Harris	Office of the Secretary of the State
Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker	State Department of Education
Executive Director Timothy Larson	Office of Higher Education
Commissioner Michelle Gilman	Department of Administrative Services
Commissioner Beth Bye	Office of Early Childhood
Commissioner Manisha Juthani	Department of Public Health
Commissioner Deidre Gifford	Department of Social Services
Jennifer Putetti	Office of the State Treasurer
Assistant State Comptroller Tara Downes	Office of the State Comptroller
Deputy Commissioner Shante' Hanks	Department of Housing
Laura Baker	Office of Workforce Strategy
Deputy Executive Director Kim Martone	Office of Health Strategy
Deputy Commissioner Paul O. Robertson	Department of Economic & Community Development
Solicitor General Clare Kindall	Office of the Attorney General
Commissioner Michelle Seagull	Department of Consumer Protection
Commissioner Danté Bartolomeo	Department of Labor
Commissioner Andrew Mais	Insurance Department
Commissioner Jorge Perez	Department of Banking
Sec. Jeffrey Beckham	Office of Policy & Management
Executive Director Thomas Saadi	Department of Veterans Affairs
Deputy Commissioner Sharonda Carlos	Department of Corrections
Janice Floyd	Department of Motor Vehicles
Brian Foley	Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Kimberly Karanda	Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Rep. Dorinda Borer	House of Representatives Democrats