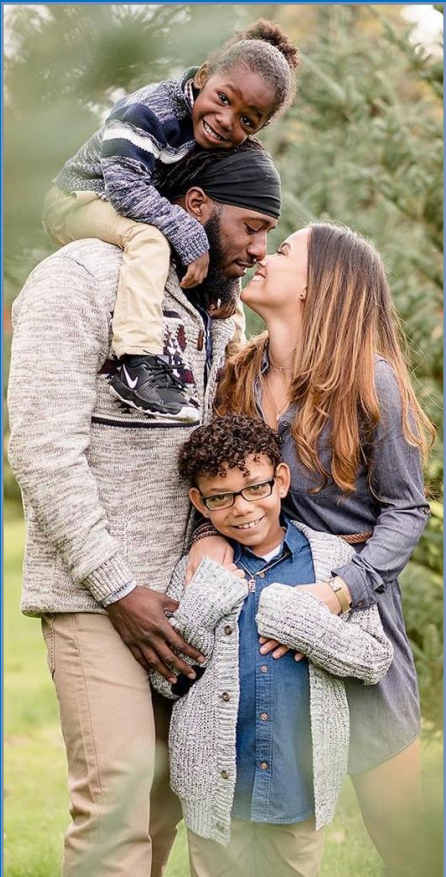


2018 Annual Report



Connecticut COMMISSION ON EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY

Serving African American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Latino and Puerto Rican populations in Connecticut

MISSION

To inform and engage all policy makers about constituent needs for the African American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Latino and Puerto Rican populations in Connecticut. We are a nonpartisan agency with a data driven, cross-cultural approach to policy innovation. We work to eliminate disparities by creating opportunities, building connections and promoting change.



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*Steven Hernández, Esq.
Executive Director, CEO*

January 2019

Dear Senators Formica, Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Committee,

I am forwarding this annual report on behalf of the Commission on Equity and Opportunity (CEO), as required by Sec. 2-127 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Commission strives to inform and engage policymakers about constituent needs. CEO is a nonpartisan agency with a data driven, cross-cultural approach to policy innovation working to eliminate disparities by creating opportunities, building connections and promoting change.

The Commission collaborated with various community organizations throughout the year fulfilling its charge to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the communities we serve. We served the Legislature as a valuable resource providing important data, guidance and leadership on important legislation in education, economic development, criminal justice and housing.

The Commission served a major role by reaching out to the community and holding public forums on employment opportunities and spearheading Housing Reentry Working Group Committees to specifically recommend an evidence-based housing policy for persons re-entering the community after incarceration. Listening tours were held around the state seeking feedback from the reentry community. A report will be presented to lawmakers that will help increase housing stability and promote post-release success as mandated by Special Act 18-14.

The Commission is working to keep youth engaged in the community by creating a Youth Civic Initiative which will promote youth leadership opportunities.

This annual report will highlight some of the work the commission has done and will provide data that reflects the progress made to improve the lives of our residents. The Commission continues to influence legislation, share critical information with the community, organize and participate in educational events and encourage cultural awareness.

Our communities continue to face many challenges but with your support and the support of the Connecticut General Assembly, the Commission will continue to strive to improve the lives of all African-American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Latino and Puerto Rican residents in the state of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Hernández".

Steven Hernández, Esq.

Commission Mandate

Sec. 2-128. Commission on Equity and Opportunity.

The Commission on Equity and Opportunity shall:

1. Focus its efforts on the following quality of life desired results for members of the African-American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state: That all such members are (A) healthy, safe and achieve educational success; (B) free from poverty; and (C) free from discrimination;
2. Make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor for new or enhanced policies, programs and services that will foster progress in achieving the desired results. Such recommendations shall, when applicable, include, but need not be limited to: (A) Systems innovations, model policies and practices which embed two-generational practice in program, policy and systems change on the state and local levels; (B) strategies for reducing family poverty, promoting parent leadership and family civics; (C) the promotion of youth leadership opportunities that keep youth engaged in the community; and (D) strategies and programs that address equitable access, impede bias, and narrow the opportunity gap for members of the African-American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state. Such recommendations may include other state and national best practices, and recommendations on federal funding maximization;
3. Review and comment, as necessary, on any specific proposed state legislation or recommendations that may affect members of the African-American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state and provide copies of any such comments to members of the General Assembly;
4. Advise the General Assembly concerning the coordination and administration of state programs that affect families and members of the African-American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state;
5. Gather and maintain, as necessary, current information regarding members of the African-American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state that can be used to better understand the status, condition, and contributions of such populations. Such information, as appropriate and pertinent to the desired results delineated in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall be included in the annual report submitted in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and shall be made available to legislators and other interested parties upon request;
6. Maintain liaisons between members of the African-American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state and government agencies, including the General Assembly; and
7. Conduct educational and outreach activities intended to raise awareness of and address critical issues for members of the African-American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state.

Commission Board Members

Charles Frazier, Jr.

Josephine Fulcher-Anderson

Jay González

Theodore C. Hsu

Robert W. Ike

YukShan Li

Diana Martinez

George Mathanool

Kenneth McClary

Gladys Rivera

Peter S. Shiue

Alan Tan

Ji Tong

Luis A. Valdez, J.D., M.B.A.

Regina Vermont

Dr. Clifton Watson

Alphonse Wright

The following Board Members also served during 2018

Ramón L. Arroyo

Dr. Dennis Canterbury

Brenda DelGado

Dr. Tekisha Everette

Joel Frazier

Dr. Ruby C. O'Neill

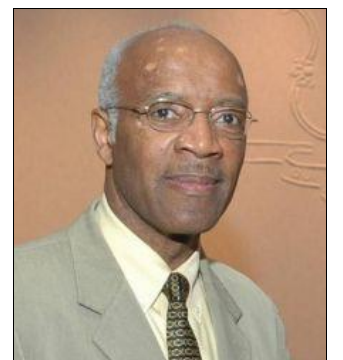
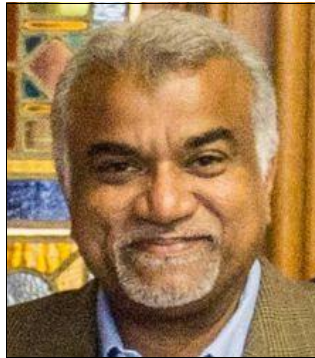
Dr. Agnes Quiñones

Pablo Soto

Alexander Tettey, Jr.

Elena Trueworthy

Ariva Walker



**Diana Martinez Photo missing from photo gallery*

Commission Staff

Steven Hernández, Esq.
Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel
Senior Commission Analyst

Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández
Senior Special Projects Coordinator

Denise Drummond
Public Information Officer

Clarisa Cardone
Senior Administrative Assistant

Subira Gordon
*Served as Executive Director of the Commission on Equity and Opportunity
from June 2016 until September 2018*



Subira Gordon



Steven Hernández, Esq.



Werner Oyanadel



Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández



Denise Drummond



Clarisa Cardone

2018 LATINX STATISTICS



540,000

LATINX POPULATION

15.7%

Latinx Percentage of statewide
population

16.1%

Latinx percentage of statewide
population under age 18

27

Median age of Latinx

\$19,708

Per Capita Income of Latinx

10%

Unemployment rate for Latinx

62.4%

Latinx households that pay more
than 30 percent of income for
housing

31.26%

Poverty rate for Latinx children

16%

Of Latinx without health
insurance

6.91%

(2014-2015)

Infant mortality rate for Latinx

481%*

2014 purchasing power of Latinx
in CT totaled \$13.4 billion—
*increase from 1990

31%

Of eligible Latinx residents who
voted in 2015

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ct,US/PST120217#viewtop>

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ct,US/RHI725217#viewtop> .

¹ <https://suburbanstats.org/race/connecticut/how-many-hispanic-or-latino-people-live-in-connecticut>

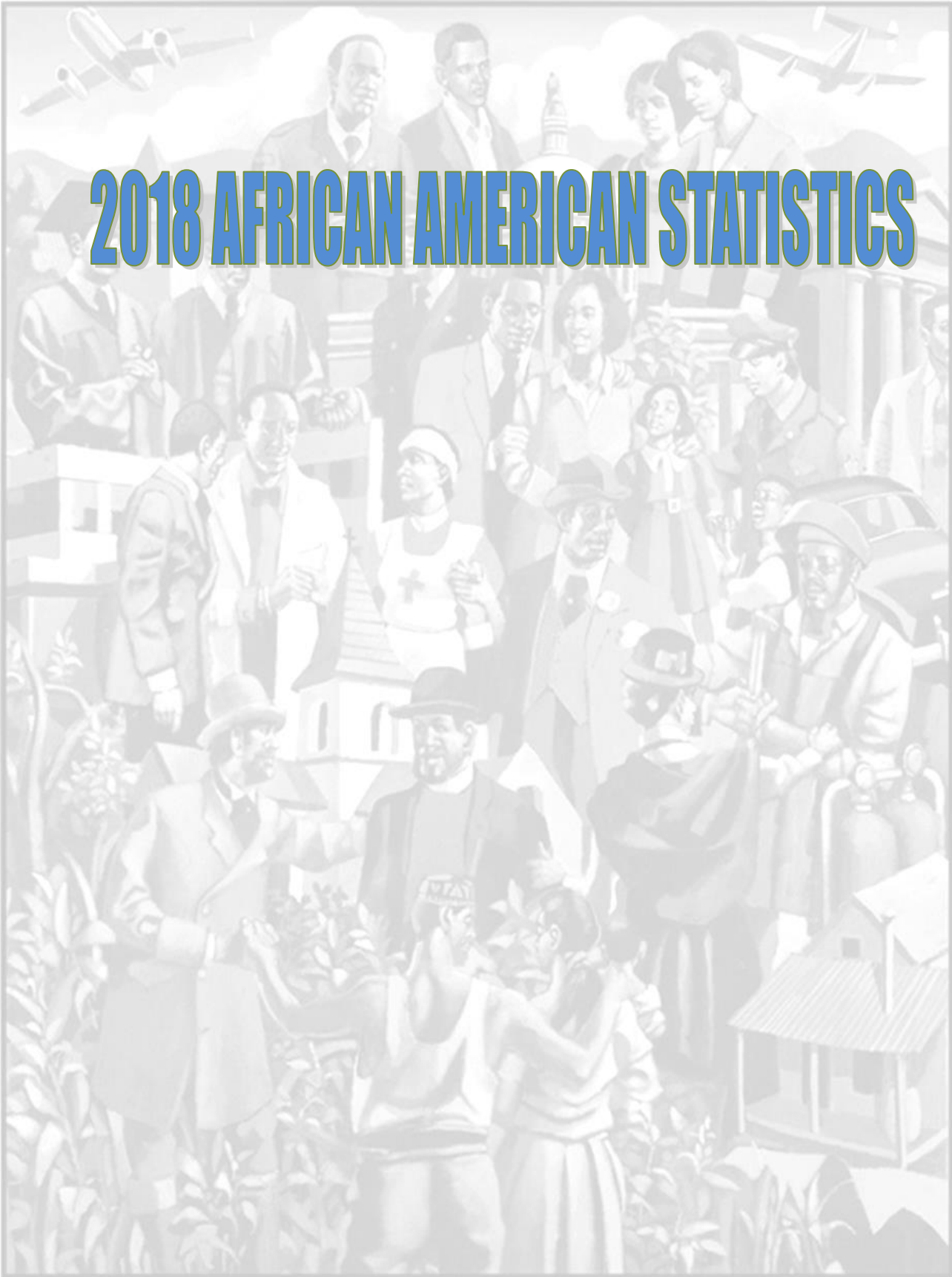
¹ [http://data.ctdata.org/visualization/per-capita-income-by-county?v=table&f={%20County%22:%20%22Connecticut%22,%20%22Variable%22:%20\[%22Per%20Capita%20Income%22,%20%22Margins%20of%20Error%22\],%20%22Race/Ethnicity%22:%20\[%22All%22,%20%22Hispanic%20or%20Latino%22\],%20%22Measure%20Type%22:%20%22Number%22,%20%22Year%22:%20%222012-2016%22}](http://data.ctdata.org/visualization/per-capita-income-by-county?v=table&f={%20County%22:%20%22Connecticut%22,%20%22Variable%22:%20[%22Per%20Capita%20Income%22,%20%22Margins%20of%20Error%22],%20%22Race/Ethnicity%22:%20[%22All%22,%20%22Hispanic%20or%20Latino%22],%20%22Measure%20Type%22:%20%22Number%22,%20%22Year%22:%20%222012-2016%22}).

¹ <https://www.epi.org/publication/state-race-unemployment-2018q1/>. (for 1st quarter of 2018).

¹ [http://data.ctdata.org/visualization/poverty-status-by-county?v=table&f={%20County%22:%20%22Connecticut%22,%20%22Windham%20County%22\],%20%22Poverty%20Status%22:%20%22Below%20Poverty%20Level%22,%20%22Race/Ethnicity%22:%20\[%22Black%20or%20African%20American%20Alone%22,%20%22Hispanic%20or%20Latino%22\],%20%22Measure%20Type%22:%20%22Percent%22,%20%22Year%22:%20%222012-2016%22,%20%22Variable%22:%20\[%22Poverty%20Status%22,%20%22Margins%20of%20Error%22\],%20%22Age%22:%20%22Under%2018%22}](http://data.ctdata.org/visualization/poverty-status-by-county?v=table&f={%20County%22:%20%22Connecticut%22,%20%22Windham%20County%22],%20%22Poverty%20Status%22:%20%22Below%20Poverty%20Level%22,%20%22Race/Ethnicity%22:%20[%22Black%20or%20African%20American%20Alone%22,%20%22Hispanic%20or%20Latino%22],%20%22Measure%20Type%22:%20%22Percent%22,%20%22Year%22:%20%222012-2016%22,%20%22Variable%22:%20[%22Poverty%20Status%22,%20%22Margins%20of%20Error%22],%20%22Age%22:%20%22Under%2018%22}).

¹ <https://ctmirror.org/2018/01/04/cdc-finds-cts-hispanic-infant-mortality-rate-among-nations-worst/>

2018 AFRICAN AMERICAN STATISTICS



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362,296

**AFRICAN AMERICAN
POPULATION**

11.6%

**African American Percentage of
statewide population**

100,857

**African American percentage of
statewide population under age 18**

43

Median age of African Americans

\$22,381

**Per Capita Income of African
Americans**

13.2%

**Unemployment rate for African
Americans**

60.4%

**Of African American households
that pay more than 30 percent of
income for housing**

20%

**Poverty rate for African
American children (2017)**

7.6%

**Of African Americans without
health insurance**

11.7 %

**Infant mortality rate for
African Americans (2016)**

29.9%

**African American buying power
as share of state's buying power**

Sources:

suburbanstats.org/population/how-many-people-live-in-Connecticut

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/09/accessible>

Unemployment rate for African American- https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/c2a3c36f-f958-4dd9-8ade-cc511b0a9963/african-american-history-month---charts-combined-february-2016-.pdf

Infant mortality rate for African Americans: <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/infant-mortality-rate-by-race-ethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

Poverty rate for African American children- <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/44-children-in-poverty-by-race-and-ethnicity#detailed/2/2-53/false/871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38,35/10,11,9,12,1,185,13/324,323>

http://nationalequityatlas.org/indicators/Housing_burden/By_race~ethnicity%3A32961/United_States/Connecticut/Year%28s%29%3A2014/Tenure%3ARenters

2018 ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN STATISTICS



135,565

**ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
POPULATION**

4.7%

**Asian Percentage of statewide
population**

.005%

**Asian percentage of statewide
population under age 18**

32

Median age of Asians

4.0%

Unemployment rate for Asians

35.7%

**Of Asian households that pay
more than 30 percent of income
for housing**

6.3%

**Of Asians without health
insurance**

NSD

Infant mortality rate for Asians

.42%

**Asian buying power as share of
state's buying power**

Sources: suburbanstats.org/population/how-many-people-live-in-Connecticut

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/09/accessible>

NSD – Not Sufficient Data

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/unemployment-rates-for-african-americans-by-state-in-2015.htm>

Selig Center for Economic Growth, Terry College of Business, The University of Georgia, June 2013.

http://nationalequityatlas.org/indicators/Housing_burden/By_race~ethnicity%3A32961/United_States/Connecticut/Year%28s%29%3A2014/Tenure%3ARenters

2018 Legislative Wrap-Up Report

The Commission on Equity and Opportunity (CEO) aimed at improving and promoting the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the populations that the commission is mandated to represent in the State of Connecticut. Through best practices models and partnerships with local, state and national organizations, the Commission on Equity and Opportunity uses a cross-cultural lens to inform public policy and involve traditionally underserved populations in the legislative process to unite minority communities in the policy arena.





2018 Legislative Wrap-Up Report

Discrimination/Equity Issues:

- **Creating a Working Group to Study Housing Opportunities for Re-Entry Community** ([Special Act No. 18-14](#)). Not later than July 1, 2018, the Commission on Equity and Opportunity shall convene a working group to (1) study housing options for persons reentering the community after incarceration, and (2) recommend an evidence-based housing policy for such persons. The working group shall consist of employees of the Commission on Equity and Opportunity, the Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's designee, and community stakeholders. The working group shall submit its findings and recommendations to the housing committee by January 1, 2019.
- **Fair Treatment of Incarcerated Women** ([Public Act No. 18-4](#)). This new law generally prohibits York Correctional Institution's correctional staff from using any leg or waist restraint on any inmate who is known to be pregnant or in the postpartum period. Moreover, the bill requires DOC to establish prenatal, labor, and postpartum services including a lactation policy that provides mothers the opportunity to pump and store breast milk for their babies. The bill also requires correctional staff, upon request, to provide inmates with feminine hygiene products at no cost. It also creates a new requirement that relates to the treatment and placement of inmates with a gender identity that differs from the inmate's assigned sex at birth; and requires the DOC commissioner to report to the Judiciary Committee on certain incidences related to pregnant inmates that occur from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019.
- **Racial & Ethnic Impact Statements** ([Public Act No. 18-78](#)). This bill requires that a racial and ethnic impact statement (REIS) be prepared, at the request of any legislator, for certain bills and amendments. The bill establishes the following deadlines for making REIS requests in a regular session: (1) within 10 days following the originating committee's reporting deadline, for favorably reported bills, and (2) at least 10 days before adjournment sine die, for amendments. Furthermore, the new act allows the Government Administration and Elections Committee to make recommendations for a provision in the Joint Rules concerning the procedure for preparing the statements, their content, and the types of bills and amendments for which they should be prepared.

Education Success:

- **Equalizing Access to Student Generated Financial Aid** ([Public Act No. 18-2](#)). This act extends eligibility for institutional financial aid to attend a state public higher education institution to students, including honorably discharged veterans, who lack legal immigration status. In specific, SB4 extends eligibility for the aid to these students, to the extent allowed by federal law, if they (1) meet certain residency, age, and criminal history requirements and (2) file an affidavit about their intent to legalize their immigration status with the institution they are attending.
- **Minority Teacher Recruitment & Retention** ([Public Act No. 18-34](#)). This bill makes a number of changes in the teacher certification laws to make it easier, in certain areas, to obtain certification or cross endorsement. It requires boards of education to have minority recruitment plans. It also:

- ✓ requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to identify and utilize or support a number of practices and programs to boost minority teacher recruitment.
- ✓ requires SDE to develop or review and approve a new alternate route to certification (ARC) program for people in certain professions to be teachers, including paraeducators, charter school teachers, veterans, and others;
- ✓ adds a new member to the teacher Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) and requires the council to work collaboratively with the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force;
- ✓ authorizes (a) the chairpersons of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force to appoint a new member to the task force who will serve as the third chairperson and (b) the Commission on Equity and Opportunity executive director to appoint three members of the task force, instead of the executive director, or her appointee, serving on the task force;
- ✓ requires the State Board of Education's (SBE) five-year education plan to include a statement that the state's teacher workforce should reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the state;
- ✓ limits local and regional boards' of education's minority recruitment plans to educators, rather than staff; and
- ✓ requires SDE to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with teacher licensure test vendors to allow some test takers to get a free retake of the exam under certain conditions.

Health Disparities:

- **New Maternity Mortality Review Committee** within Department of Public Health (DPH) ([Public Act No. 18-150](#)). This new law establishes a Maternity Mortality Review Program within the DPH to identify maternal deaths in Connecticut and conduct comprehensive, multidisciplinary reviews which can help identify associated factors and make recommendations to reduce these deaths.

Budgetary and Poverty Issues:

- **Budget Revisions ([Public Act No. 18-81](#)). An Act Concerning Revisions to the State Budget for Fiscal year 2019 & Deficiency Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2018.**
 - ✓ Sec. 19 – Appropriates total funding of \$1.5 million to provide assistance to persons residing in the state who were displaced by Hurricane Maria. Funding is appropriated as follows: (1) \$400,000 to the State Department of Education for Bilingual Education, (2) \$600,000 to the Department of Housing for Housing/Homeless Services, and (3) \$500,000 to the Department of Social Services for Human Resource Development-Hispanic Programs.
 - ✓ Sec. 10 – Students Displaced by Hurricane Maria – Remaining FY 19 ECS grants will be distributed to municipalities whose school districts received students from Puerto Rico (\$2.9 million)
 - ✓ Sec. 539 & 540 School Oral Health Assessments – Requires local and regional boards of education to request that students have an oral health assessment prior to public school enrollment, in grade 6 or 7, and in grade 9 or 10. It establishes related requirements on providers authorized to perform the assessments, parental consent, assessment forms, notification, and records access.

Judicial Nomination:

- **Chief Justice of the State of Connecticut Supreme Court, Justice Richard A. Robinson (H.J. No. 165).** The CEO endorsed the nomination of Associate Supreme Court Justice Richard A. Robinson to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Connecticut. Justice Robinson is now the first African-American in the history of the State of Connecticut to hold the Chief Justice position. Justice Robinson has extensive public and judicial service as assistant corporation counsel to the city of Stamford, trial court judge, appellate court judge, president of the Stamford NAACP, general counsel for the Connecticut Chapter of the NAACP, and chair of the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. We are optimistic that his experience and expertise will inform a problem-solving approach to the critical structural reforms needed to move our court system toward accountability and effective therapeutic jurisprudence while honoring due process. We look forward to Justice Robinson joining the list of distinguished Supreme Court Chief Justices who were the first African-American leaders of the judiciary in their states. Congratulations, Justice Robinson, on your nomination and confirmation.

Miscellaneous/Technical Revisions:

- **Decreasing the Membership of the Commission on Equity & Opportunity ([Public Act No. 18-65](#)).** This is a technical bill which reduces the total membership of the Commission on Equity and Opportunity (CEO) from 63 to 39. This legislative effort was spearheaded by the CEO staff to improve responsiveness, cohesiveness and overall board effectiveness.

Bills supported by CEO that died in 2018:

- **Divestment of State Funds Invested in Companies Doing Business in Venezuela ([HB5269](#)).** This bill would have required the Treasurer to consider divesting state funds invested in companies doing business in Venezuela. The bill passed the House only. **Bill died.**
- **Removing the Sunset Date for the Foreclosure Mediation Program ([HB5495](#)).** The state's Foreclosure Mediation Program has helped thousands of Connecticut residents remain in their homes when facing foreclosure. The program is currently scheduled to sunset in 2019. This bill would have removed the sunset date, making the program permanent. **Bill died.**
- **Making Certain Educational Institutions Ineligible for Public Funds & Licensure ([HB5498](#))** For-profit colleges and universities often require students to sign waivers which dismiss their rights to sue institutions. This bill would have made such institutions that require students to sign these waivers ineligible to receive public funds. Students of color are disproportionately represented in for-profit colleges, which mean that there are a disproportionate number of students of color who waive their rights. **Bill died.**
- **The Collection and Usage of Health Care Data ([HB5415](#))** This bill required the statewide health information technology plan to (1) enhance the ability to collect and use health equity data to improve health outcomes and (2) include general standards on collecting, storing, and using such data. Under the bill, “health equity data” is demographic data, including race, ethnicity, primary language, age, gender, socioeconomic position, sexual minority status, disability, homelessness, or geographic data, that can be used to consider health equity issues. **Bill died.**

- **Restoring Electoral Privileges to Felony Convicts Who Are on Parole ([HB5418](#))**. This bill would have restored the voting rights of convicted felons on parole, except those convicted of an election-related felony. Under current law, convicted felons may not become electors until discharged from confinement and parole. Currently seventeen states and the District of Columbia, including every other New England state, already return voting rights to people on parole. For the record, parole is a period of conditional supervised release following incarceration. Inmates sentenced to more than two years in prison can be considered for parole. Inmates convicted of non-violent crimes are generally eligible for parole after serving 50% of their sentence. Inmates who committed violent crimes are eligible after serving 85% of their sentence. Those convicted of certain crimes, like murder, are not eligible for parole. **Bill died.**
- **Recommendations of the Sentencing Commission Regarding Misdemeanor Sentences ([HB5544](#))**. This bill would have reduced the maximum sentence for misdemeanors from one year to 364 days. Currently, the maximum sentence for a class A misdemeanor, and certain unclassified misdemeanors, is one year. Federal law lists certain categories of crimes which render a non-citizen removable from the United States or otherwise affect immigration status. In some situations, immigration consequences are triggered based on whether the crime was punishable by at least one year in prison. **Bill died.**

CEO Testify before the CT General Assembly



2018 Bill Signing Ceremonies





Commission Reports for the CT General Assembly

In 2018 the Commission on Equity and Opportunity was commissioned to research, analyze and submit reports to the CT General Assembly regarding employment opportunities and housing options for persons re-entering the community after incarceration.

Hope For Success:

A Look at Employment Opportunities For The Reentry Community

The Commission on Equity and Opportunity released a report *Hope For Success - A Look at Employment Opportunities For The Reentry Community*. The Commission researched employment opportunities for the formerly incarcerated. The study was a collaborative research project led by the Commission in partnership with State Representative Brandon McGee, spearheading conversations with organizations including the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Greater Hartford Reentry Council and Community Partners in Action. The study gathered data from interviews with persons who were formerly incarcerated, policy experts in the field of criminal justice along with data collection from scholarly reports.

The Commission and a panel of experts explored smart reentry planning and coordination of services that benefits everyone by improving public safety and reducing the collateral consequences as well as the costs of people cycling in and out of the criminal justice system. [Hope For Success Report](#)



Special Act No. 17-15

An Act Concerning Community Reentry By Persons Who Were Incarcerated.

Section 1. (Effective October 1, 2017) The Commission on Equity and Opportunity shall study and recommend ways to provide (1) persons recently released from correctional facilities with enhanced employment opportunities, and (2) tax incentives to employers who provide employment opportunities to persons recently released from correctional facilities. Not later than January 1, 2018, the commission shall report on such study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public employees.

Hope For Success: Returning Home

The Commission on Equity and Opportunity in partnership with State Representative, Brandon McGee Jr. spearheaded a formal statewide legislative dialogue about housing options for persons re-entering the community after incarceration, as requested by the Connecticut General Assembly (Special Act No. 18-14). “Listening Tours” were held around the state seeking feedback from people reentering the community after incarceration about their experiences seeking permanent housing in Connecticut. Working groups were created to specifically recommend an evidence-based housing policy for such persons. The overall aim of this project is to increase housing stability and promote post-release success. The Commission submitted a final report to the Housing Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly on January 1, 2019.

Rebecca Pirius from the National Conference of State Legislatures presented detailed evidence-based housing policies and other effective housing options for legislative consideration.

Andrew Clark, Director of the Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy (IMRP) presented evidence-based housing programs in Connecticut for people reintegrating society after incarceration.

Rick J. Porth, President & CEO, of the United Way of Connecticut presented information about Connecticut’s Coordinated Access Network and housing services available for people going through re-entry.

Sarah Gallagher, Managing Director of Eastern Region Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) presented cost-effective & evidence-based supportive housing for the re-entry population.

Sarah Fox, Director of Advocacy & Community Impact at the CT Coalition to End Homelessness, presented information about the Connecticut Homelessness Response System.

Yale law students from the Reentry Clinic, run by New Haven Legal Assistance and Yale Law School, presented research on homelessness.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy spoke about the impact of homelessness in Connecticut.



Special Act No. 18-14)

An Act Creating A Working Group To Study Housing Options For Persons Reentering The Community After Incarceration.

Section 1. (Effective from passage) (a) Not later than July 1, 2018, the Commission on Equity and Opportunity (CEO) shall convene a working group to (1) study housing options for persons reentering the community after incarceration, and (2) recommend an evidence-based housing policy for such persons. The working group shall consist of employees of the Commission on Equity and Opportunity, the Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee, the Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's designee, and community stakeholders. (b) Not later than January 1, 2019, the CEO shall submit a report of the recommendations of the working group as set forth in subsection (a) of this section, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to housing.

Housing Re-Entry Panelists



Listening Tour Panelists



Commission Community Engagement



The Commission on Equity and Opportunity works collaboratively with community groups, state agencies, legislators and the public to address issues that impact the communities we serve. The Commission continues to build ongoing, permanent relationships for the purpose of applying a collective vision for the benefit of our communities.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



The Commission met with European election observers for the mid-term congressional elections. Observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) assessed the elections for compliance with international obligations and standards for democratic elections. A statement of preliminary findings and conclusions was presented at a press conference on Election Day.

CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project



The Commission served on the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Advisory Board. Researchers of Central Connecticut State University's Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) performed an in-depth analysis on 8 police departments identified as having significant racial and ethnic disparities last year. The goal of the research was to better understand the factors that contributed to the evident disparities.

Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings, 2014-15
Supplemental Report

[July 2017 Supplemental Report.pdf](#)

Adobe Acrobat document [13.7 MB]

[July 20, 2017 CT-N Recording of Report Release](#)

WNPR - Where We Live



Senior Commission Analyst, Werner Oyanadel reflected on the 45 years that has passed since the coup d'état that occurred in Chile back on September 11, 1973 on WNPR's talk show, *Where We Live*, hosted by Lucy Nalpathanchil. The show was broadcasted in September 2018.

Fair Housing Day



April 11, 2018 marked the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act, a key component of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. In recognition of this historic anniversary, Governor Dannel P. Malloy proclaimed April 11, 2018 "Fair Housing Day" in the State of Connecticut. Executive Director, Subira Gordon, spoke on behalf of the Commission.

Informational Forum on Autism



The CT Commission on Women, Children and Seniors hosted a community advocacy event examining opportunity, connection, productivity and independence for people on the autism spectrum. The discussion was led by State Senator Tony Hwang and State Representative Catherine Abercrombie. Experts, leaders and self-advocates discussed barriers and solutions that impact our communities. The Commission's Public Information Officer, Denise Drummond served on the panel.

Housing Re-Entry Taskforce



Public Information Officer, Denise Drummond and Senior Commission Analyst, Werner Oyanadel worked with the 4 Housing Reentry Committees which included: Community Engagement Committee, Law/Regulation/Policy Committee, Legislation and Advocacy Committee and the Program Evaluations Committee. The Committees were created to specifically recommend an evidence-based housing policy for persons re-entering the community after incarceration.

iNACOL Conference



Executive Director, Steven Hernández, Esq. and Sr. Commission Analyst, Werner Oyanadel attended a national education conference hosted by iNACOL in Nashville, TN. iNACOL's annual conference is the industry's leading event shaping the future of K-12 education around the country. Stakeholders in attendance were able to gain access to expertise, analysis, and trends in personalized competency-based learning – as experts, policymakers and researchers work to transform education.

UConn Students visit CEO



Students from the University of Connecticut made their annual visit to the Commission. Senior Commission Legislative Analyst, Werner Oyanadel discussed with the students the current legislative issues impacting Latino families and migrant workers in our state.

College Goal Sunday



Public Information Officer Denise Drummond continues to participate in College Goal Sunday-CT. College Goal Sunday provides potential first-generation college students free access to financial aid experts. The event provides a great opportunity for high school seniors and their parents to ask questions and get help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) financial aid forms. It also provides an opportunity to get helpful information about applying to college.

CEO Power Talk



Senior Commission Analyst, Werner Oyanadel and Public Information Officer Denise Drummond produce "CEO Power Talk". Power Talk is a community dialogue with influential makers who make a difference in Connecticut. The Commission will continue to share conversations with those in our communities that make a difference! Visit our [Facebook](#) page and our [YouTube](#) channel to see the Commission's latest interviews.



Cultural Recognition

The Commission brings awareness to the cultures of the 3 divisions that the Commission represents. The Commission celebrates the cultures and the contributions that African-American, Asian American, Pacific Islanders, and the Latino and Puerto Rican men and women have made to this country.

12th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration

Chinese Lunar New Year is celebrated on a grand scale around the world. The Commission celebrated at the State Capitol the Year of the Dog, an Earth Dog Year. Years of the Dog include 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, and 2030. The Dog occupies the eleventh position in the Chinese zodiac. Festivities last for 16 days, from the Lunar New Year's Eve to the Lantern Festival. CEO Commissioner Alan Tan, State Representative William Tong, State Senator Tony Hwang, and Forensic Scientist, Dr. Henry Lee were amongst the event speakers.



Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. During Black History month the Commission hosted its annual art exhibit, the featured artist was Georges Annan Kingsley. Georges Annan Kingsley, originally from Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa, received his Bachelors in Fine Art/Painting from the Applied School of Art Ivory Coast and his Masters in Fine Arts Sculpture from the National Superior School of Fine Arts in Paris, France. He relocated to Hartford, CT in 2013.



Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month the Commission presented its Annual Hispanic Heritage Stamp Exhibit. Special Projects Coordinator, Lucía Goicoechea-Hernández hosted the Latinx Heritage Forum paying tribute to Latinx Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.



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