



The Commission on  
Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity

# CWCSEO

Connecticut General Assembly

## MINUTES

### CWCSEO DECEMBER ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 12, 2019

10am – 12pm

Legislative Office Building, Room 1B

Present: Karen Jarmoc, Alan Tan, Diane Stone, Newington Senior Center, Leticia Colon de Mejia's, Penny Young, Alphonse Wright, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Luis Valdez, Gladys Rivera, Helene Shay, Jordan Grossman, Nancy Heaton, Antonia Moran and Emmanuela Palmares

Staff Present: Steven Hernandez, Werner Oyanadel, Rosemary Lopez, Denise Drummond, Lucy Goicoechea-Hernandez, Michael Oyanadel, Lead Fellow and Kaylee Rohrbaugh, Lead Fellow

Meeting was called to order by Co-chair Jarmoc at 10:05am on Thursday, December 12, 2019.

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Co-chairperson Jarmoc and Co-chairperson Tan welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Co-chairs Jarmoc and Tan mentioned that they would like to send a kind communication to the legislative leader outlining the challenges that the commission is facing due to appointments not being made. The commission can't follow through with our statutory mandate due to this matter, and it's hindering the work of the commission. Sub-commissions can start meeting, but no chair should be appointed until all appointments are complete. For the record resumes and recommendations have been sent to the leaders.

### SUB COMMISSION UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

**Latino & Puerto Rican Sub-Commission Report** – They met, and their conversation and focus were on three mayor items:

1. **Election of Advisory Board Member** - Gladys Rivera accepted nomination to chair the Latino & Puerto Rican Sub Commission
2. **Legislative Concepts** - Achievement Gap for Latinos in the state, wrap around services for children for example lack of school counselors, teacher recruitment, school transportation improvement especially in urban areas, increase access to affordable safe housing opportunity both in the rental and homeowner levels, civic participation, clean slate reform, racial profiling. Moving forward they would like to do a Social Economic



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Study to have really facture opinions. They would like to go into the community and have listening tours and community visits.

3. **Structure of when they will meet** - They will meet every Tuesday.

**African-American Affairs Sub-Commission Report** – They met and the sub commission agreed that Alphonse Wright chair their meetings and report to the full board till other members are appointed. They did not get into specifics of priorities until others are appointed. They did have a conversation about having a panel conversation for Black History Month and address the issues of Health, Education and Housing Economic Development. They also have identified four schools to also participate.

**Asian American Pacific Islanders Sub-Commission** – Due to the lack of appointment of board members they weren't able to have a meeting to look at priorities. In their last meeting they were gotten to know each other better, and the work that each does. Also had a broad discussion of the vision that they have for the sub commission moving forward. They will be meeting monthly.

## **PARTNER PRESENTATIONS**

**Safe Connect** – Co-Chair Jarmoc wanted to inform everyone that Safe Connect is a project of the CT. Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) that was developed as way to make it easier for victims of domestic violence to access information, resources, and assistance. There has been here in CT 11 Domestic Violence homicides (Intimate Partner violence homicides). CT averages 12 a year. It's frustrating given the amount of resources and systemic work that we are still seeing these numbers. The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) which works in collaboration with 18 designated domestic violence sites across the state. 37,773 victims have received aid from one of the provider sites. Shelters are at 123% capacity, families are on beds, couches, playrooms trying to make space when there is a urgent need. The number of calls that these sites receive it's so large that CCADV developed what now called the Safe Connect to make it easier for victims of domestic violence to access information, resources, and assistance. It has not been finished yet, but people will have the capacity to either call, text, chat, or email 24/7, it's bilingual and bicultural. It's safe, free, and confidential.

**Senior Issues Update** – Is an update on the Transportation Task Force, Long Term Care Advisory Council and Alzheimer's and Dementia Working Group. Ms. Christy Kovel and Ms. Diane Stone explained the following:

1. **Long Term Care Advisory Council (LTCAC)** – The LTCAC is a group of stake holders appointed to meet and work on the state's Long-Term Care Plan, it's to inform how we are taking care of people how they age. This work was being done by the Commission on Aging and with the merge is now done by the commission. She met with Mr. Hernandez and reengaged this group recently and are trying to figure out how often they meet and share legislative priorities, as well as informing the state's long-term plan which is done



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every three years. The commission is charged for overseeing that group along with Rep. Steinberg who is the chair for that group.

2. **Alzheimer's and Dementia Working Group** – There was legislation that was passed last year, which did two things. They added dementia training to the curriculum for physicians and APRN's as a condition of license renewal. The second piece of that legislation authorized a working group that the commission oversees to update the CT Alzheimer's plan. All state has a plan on how to take care of people with Alzheimer's. The plan in CT was done via legislative task force. The small working group has been meeting to study issues related to Alzheimer's disease and dementia. A report will be finished and released by end January 2020.
3. **Transportation Task Force** – It's a task force to look at transportation for older adults, persons with disabilities and veterans. The task force has met several times and are hoping to have report and recommendations before the beginning of this legislative session. At 12:30pm today they will be having a round table conversation with stake holders that will come and talk to them.

## TASK FORCE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

**Social Emotional Learning Collaborative (SEL)** – Ms. Rohrbaugh updated on the work they have been doing established by Public Act 19-166, it's to address youth suicide and prevention. There are a couple of different tasks that we have been tasked with:

1. A risk assessment survey for youth for suicide that's due next July.
2. For the following July they have a school climate survey that they are establishing right now.
3. For this upcoming January they are creating recommendations for model policy for school climate across the state. They are looking at how school are addressing students' emotional intelligence.

**LGBTQ Network** – Mr. Hernandez reported that this last session a LGBTQ+ Health and Human Services Network that's administered by the commission. The purpose of the network is to make recommendations to the State about how to work towards a safer and healthier environment for the LGBTQ+ community. The inaugural meeting will be tomorrow Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm at the LOB, Rm. 1C. In that meeting they will be discussing the best way in which some of these resources can directly be sent into communities that are working on LGBTQ Health and Human Health services in the state.

**SUN Scholars** – Mr. Hernandez reported that as a result collaboration of the CARE Scholars Network out of CCSU, that works on issues impacting young people who are navigating college who are foster and adoptive youth. That organization is now the SUN Scholars, they are working with Washington DC on becoming a full 501c3. In the interim the commission has taken on the director of the scholar as a Fellow for the commission. While they are with us, they will be coordinating the Foster and Youth Bi-partisan Caucus.



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**Trafficking In Persons Council (TIP)** – They met a couple of weeks ago, we are now organizing a meeting the formal Chair Jillian Gilchrest to discuss a policy strategy for the next session. The TIP Council has moved forward an agenda of recommendations that they would like to present.

### **COMMISSION SESSIONAL COMMUNICATION PLATFORM**

Mr. Hernandez wanted to bring a couple of option on how during session we can communicate better. The options are the following:

1. Email
2. Newsletter
3. Online virtual platforms that you can access, and you can communicate with each other, share documents that you want others to review. It would be a way for also staff to communicate.

We should be receiving both, email and then work with the platform.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Lunar New Year Celebration – January 22, 2020, 6pm at the LOB Atrium  
Women and Girls Day – March 6, 2020, all day event in the LOB and Capitol

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of December 12, 2019, at 12:10pm without any motions due to lack of quorum.