



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

**CWCSEO**

Connecticut General Assembly

## **MINUTES**

### **CWCSEO ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2021**

**VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Alan Tan, Karen Jarmoc, Leticia Colon de Mejias, Alfonse Wright, Cynthia Cartier, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Diane Stone, Nancy Heaton, Penny Young, Denise Cesareo, Pat Wilson Pheanious, Hilda Nieves and Joan Barere

STAFF/INTERNS PRESENT: Steven Hernández, Werner Oyanadel, Rosemary Lopez, Denise Drummond, TJ Nuccio- Fellow, Michael Werner-Fellow

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM on Thursday, May 12, 2021.

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Co-Chairs Tan and Jarmoc welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this meeting.

Jarmoc also mentioned that some pre read items were sent to everyone for a discussion later on.

- CT State Department of Education – Increasing the Racial, Ethnic, and Linguistic Diversity of the Connecticut Educato Workforce
- Hartford Courant Article– CT shcools hired 1,900 educators of color in past 5 years, but state's teacher workforce is still 90% white
- Governor Ned Lamont Announcement – Five Year Goal for increasing the Diversity of the Educator Workforce
- Essential Equity: Women, Covid-19 and Rebuilding CT



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### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Mr. Hernandez reported that he has been allowed to post for the four vacancies that are available at the commission. Three of the postings are for beginning analyst position, and one for an associate director to run Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI). This year we anticipate having over 200 graduates of PLTI, which is a powerful civic engagement activity across the state.

Later he will give a legislative update for bills that are pending, that implicate our constituencies.

### **DISPARITY REPORTS RECAP AND DISCUSSION**

A full discussion and sharing of thoughts and ideas around the reports. There was a desire to engage to plan as a Commission and create opportunities for a better intersectionality within the work of the Commission.

The Commission is in a such strong place to lead on policy to offer our ideas and inputs. It was understood that there are other organizations that are also taking charge to make these issues better. The Commission would like to insert themselves in a way that's productive and helpful to advancing better outcomes. Recommendations that we could implement this in the work of the Commission moving forward collectively, so we can understand that people of color are also elderly, they have children, they are women and they're dealing with issues that might be different than other groups. The Commission wants to work on the data and then hopefully get the disparity study out this year. There is a real opportunity and need for the Commission to identify communities that we want to be sure are engaged in.

A plan to meet and have an all day conversation facilitated by someone from the outside. A doodle poll will out to get a day in late June. More details to follow.

### **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION** **IMPACTING OUR CONSTITUENCIES**



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There was a presentation and highlight of many of the legislative bill that impact our jurisdictions. The bills are the following:

- SB 1 AA equalizing Comprehensive Access to Mental, Behavioral and Physical Health Care in Response to the Pandemic – this bill is the vehicle for much of the pandemic response. There is also in Section 10 "Douglas", they have existed for thousands of years, mostly in black and brown communities. Doulas are caretakers of health and there is an effort in the state of CT not only to support the work, but to have the work reimbursed by Medicaid.
- SB 56 AA Deterring Age Discrimination in Employment Applications – This bill has passed the Senate and is now tabled for the House. This bill impacts our aging residents of the state.
- SB 87 AAC Certain Protections for Group and Family Child Care Homes - This would clarify various provisions of our requirements to protect
- HB 5742 AAC the Use of COVID-19 Relief Funds for Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Substance Abuse Service Providers - This is a critical bill, and it relates to what we've seen as a result of COVID mental health crisis. There has been an uptick, on domestic violence, domestic abuse. so this is this is part of the strategy to address some of those issues that have arisen directly because of pandemic.
- HB 6380 AAC the Disclosure of Salary Range for a Vacant Position – This bill would require employers to disclose salary ranges for vacant positions to provide comparable pay for comparable work.
- HB 6111 AA Establishing a Youth Suicide Prevention Training Program - the Commission has been working closely with the suicide Advisory Board, we have seen an increase in suicidal intentio and attempts.
- HB 6557 AAC Social and Emotional Learning - these are the recommendations that came directly out of the collaborative and academic social and emotional learning. The bill did not move out of committee for reasons that peculiar to committee and the committee structure but the language of the bill is still being negotiated for insertion into another vehicle. The Commission is actually one of the Tri chairs of the statewide collaborative on academic social and emotional learning.
- HB 5158 AAC Breatfeeding in the Workplace - this is a critical bill on workers and for working women. This has past the house and has moved to the Senate.
- HB 5614 AA Establishing a Cooommission on the Disparate Impact of COVID-19 - the Commission has hone in on the disparate impact of COVID-19, also working with partner agencies outside of government to continue to collect data disproportionality.



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- HB 6552 AAC the Rights of Residents in Nursing Home Facilities to Use the Technology of Their Choice for Virtual Connections to Family, Friends and Other Persons - this is one of several initiatives to bring access and opportunity for people who are living in care, to bring them closer to their families.
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- SB 881 AAC Workforce Development - this bill would build a better pipeline between high school and post secondary education. This bill focuses on entrepreneurship in addition to traditional work.
- HB 6476 AAC a Disparity Study - It's a critical issue and the state is really looking at it.
- SB 882 AAC Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability & SB 356 and Senate bill 356 AA Establishing an Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grant Program for Affordable Housing
- HB 6376 AA Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair - this bill has been a long time coming. Believe it or not in the United States including the state of Connecticut children are discriminated against because of their natural hair.

Mr. Hernandez will provide a listing of the bills to everyone.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of May 12, 2021, adjourned at 11:40am.