

Annual Report

2023

# Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity



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

**CWCSEO**  
Connecticut General Assembly

## Mission

To inform and engage all policy makers about constituent needs for women, children and their families, seniors, and the African American, Asian Pacific-American, 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 identifying opportunities, building connections and promoting change.



## Table of Contents

<b>Mission</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Letter from the Co-Chairs</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Commission Mandate</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Commission Board Members</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Commission Staff</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2023 Commission Fellows, Interns &amp; Volunteers</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2023 Legislative Wrap Up Report</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Community Engagement</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>2023 Parent Leadership and Engagement</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>2023 Two Generational Initiatives</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Coalitions and Partnerships</b>	<b>25</b>

## Letter from the Co-Chairs

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity (CWCSEO), it is our pleasure to present our 2023 Annual Report, reflecting our commitment as mandated by Sec. 2-127 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Throughout the year, the CWCSEO has actively engaged in a diverse array of initiatives that align with our mission to foster equity and opportunity across Connecticut.

This year's programming was highlighted by the "Right to Read: Implementation and District Transformation" forum held on March 29, which provided vital updates on the implementation progress of the Right to Read legislation. Esteemed panelists, including Senator Pat Billie Miller, Dr. Melissa Hickey, and Mayor Justin Elicker, shared insights on adapting educational practices to align with the science of reading, marking a significant step in systemic change in early literacy within the state.

Our efforts to increase civic participation were exemplified at the Early Voting roundtable on March 23, where key stakeholders, including Senators Mae Flexer and State Representative Matt Blumenthal, discussed the implementation of in-person early voting. This initiative aims to strengthen our democracy by expanding voter access, particularly in historically underserved communities.

Throughout the year, the Commission excelled in fostering community conversations and educational outreach. Noteworthy events included the Yoga for Older Adults, Juneteenth Panel Discussion, AAPI Small Business Virtual Panel, Autism Awareness Day, and the Thriving Families Drive Economies 2Gen Informational Forum. Each event catered to specific community needs, providing platforms for discussion and policy awareness.

Significant legislative successes were achieved with the passage of several bills, including Public Act 23-41, which ensures reproductive healthcare accessibility on college campuses, and HB 6642, PA 23-66, which focuses on Title IX compliance in educational institutions. Moreover, the enactment of Senate Bill 1 (i.e., PA 23-167), influenced by our recommendations, aims to enhance school climate, and reduce racial disparities in school disciplinary actions.

As we reflect on a productive year, we are grateful for the continued support of the Connecticut General Assembly and our community partners. The activities highlighted herein demonstrate our commitment to the four main pillars of our mission: health and safety, educational success, freedom from poverty, and freedom from discrimination.

We look forward to another year of impactful collaboration and meaningful change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan Tan', enclosed within a thin, rounded rectangular border.

Alan Tan CWCSEO Co-Chair

*Karen Jarmoc*

Karen Jarmoc CWCSEO Co-Chair

## Commission Mandate

### Section 2-128. Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity.

The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall:

1. Focus its efforts on the following quality of life desired results for women, children and their families, seniors and members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state: That all such [members] persons are (A) healthy, safe and achieve educational success; (B) free from poverty; and (C) free from discrimination;
2. [Make] With the advice of the executive committee of the commission, 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 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection. 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, in accordance with section 17b-112l; (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 women, children and their families, seniors, and members of the African American, Asian Pacific-American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state. Such 6 recommendations may include other state and national best practices, and recommendations on federal funding maximization;
3. [Review] With the advice of the executive committee of the commission, review and comment, as necessary, on any specific proposed state legislation or recommendations that may affect women, children and their families, seniors and members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state and provide copies of any such comments to members of the General Assembly;

4. [Advise] With the advice of the executive committee of the commission, advise the General Assembly concerning the coordination and administration of state programs that affect [families]women, children and their families, seniors, and members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state;
5. Gather and maintain, as necessary, current information regarding women, children and their families, seniors, and members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state that can be used to better understand the status, condition, and contributions of such [populations] groups. 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 women, children and their families, seniors, and members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-American 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 women, children and their families, seniors, and members of the African-American, Asian Pacific-American and Latino and Puerto Rican populations of the state.

## **Commission Board Members**

**Alan Tan, Co-Chair**  
**Karen Jarmoc, Co-Chair**  
**Joan Barere**  
**Liz Bumgardner**  
**Denise Cesareo**  
**Donna Campbell**  
**Ada Fenick**  
**Madeline Granato**  
**Jordan Grossman**  
**Nancy Heaton**  
**Tiana Victoria Hercules**  
**Mui Mui Hin-McCormick**  
**Sylvia Ho**  
**Hossain Roman Khondker**  
**Gerard Kerins**  
**Hilda Nieves**  
**Bruni Pizarro**  
**Gladys Rivera**  
**Ji Tong**  
**Regina Vermont**  
**Kunwar Umesh Vig**  
**Clifton Watson**  
**Tiheba Williams-Bain**  
**Alphonse Wright**  
**Penelope Young**



## **Commission Staff**

**Steven Hernández, Esq.**  
**Executive Director**

**Werner Oyanadel**  
**Latino and Puerto Rican Policy Director**

**Denise Drummond**  
**African American Legislative Policy Analyst**

**Rosemary López**  
**Women's Legislative Policy Analyst**

**Megan Baker**  
**Asian Pacific American Legislative Policy Analyst**

**Thomas Nuccio**  
**Children's Legislative Policy Analyst**

**Michael Werner**  
**Seniors' Legislative Policy Analyst**

**Melvette Hill**  
**Director, Parent Leadership and Family Engagement**



The Commission on  
Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity  
**CWCSEO**  
Connecticut General Assembly

# 2023 Commission Fellows, Interns, & Volunteers

## 2023 Yale School of Public Health Fellows

Hannah Scott

Hannah Stiles

Kiley Pratt

Julianna McVeigh

## Interns & Volunteers

Maria Kelly

Christian Duborg

Karen Lau

Quynh To



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

**CWCSEO**  
Connecticut General Assembly





## 2023 Legislative Wrap Up Report

The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWCSEO) 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 CWCSEO 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.



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

**CWCSEO**  
Connecticut General Assembly

# 2023 Legislative Wrap Up Report

## **Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment, & Trafficking**

The legislature passed legislation concerning online privacy, data, and safety protections ([SB 3](#), PA 23-56). This bill sets standards on accessing and sharing consumer health data by certain private entities that do business in Connecticut, requires social media platforms to unpublish a minor's social media account within 15 business days and generally delete the account within 45 days of receiving an authenticated request, establishes a framework and sets requirements for how individuals or entities offering certain online services, products, and features manage and process personal data for minors, requires online dating operators to adopt a policy for handling reports by or between users, and statutorily establishes the Connecticut Internet Crimes Against Children task force (CT ICAC) and requires it to use state and federal funding to execute its enumerated duties.

The legislature passed a bill strengthening protections against and response to domestic violence ([SB 5](#), PA 23-106) by making certain changes to laws on protections for victims of family violence; through this legislation, the Judicial Department's electronic monitoring pilot program for family violence offenders will be expanded, courts will be prohibited from ordering an injured spouse to make temporary or permanent alimony payments to a spouse convicted of certain crimes after the marriage date, and will require the organization administering the legal assistance program for indigent restraining order applicants to submit a report to the Judiciary Committee.

The governor signed into law a bill implementing additional measures to prevent trafficking in persons and expanding the composition of the Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Council ([SB 1117](#), PA 23-20). This bill expands protections for victims of human trafficking by prohibiting motels, hotels, or similar lodging operators that offer sleeping accommodations that are either based on an hourly rate or an occupancy that is for 12 hours or less. Furthermore, this bill also increases the TIP Council membership to include the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) commissioner (or designee).

## **Preventing Child Marriage**

The governor signed into law a bill prohibiting anyone under the age of 18 from being issued a marriage license under any circumstances by removing the stipulation in current law allowing a 16- or 17-year-old to get a marriage license if the probate court approves a petition filed by the minor's parent/guardian ([HB 6569](#), Public Act 23-44). Emancipated minors are also no longer eligible to marry as a result of this legislation.

## **Educator Diversity**

Public Act 23-167, An Act Concerning Transparency in Education, incorporates efforts around diversifying the educator workforce. The Minority Teacher Recruitment Oversight Council was renamed to the Increasing Educator Diversity Policy Oversight Council, focusing on diversifying

the educator workforce. This body is required to meet quarterly and advise the Department of Education on ways to encourage minority students in middle and secondary school to enter teacher preparation programs, recruit minority students attending institutions of higher education to enroll in teacher preparation programs, recruit and retain minority teachers in Connecticut schools, recruit minority teachers from other states to teach in Connecticut schools, and recruit minority professionals in other fields to enter teaching.

### **School Climate and Anti-Bullying Law Reform**

The school climate section of Public Act 23-167 was shepherded by the the children's subcommission and the Statewide Social Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory Collaborative and is a comprehensive reform of Connecticut's anti-bullying statute's 10-222d to 10-222p.

### **School Resource Officers**

The children's subcommission collaborated with stakeholders to reform the processes for SRO's in schools by saying that each local and regional board of education that assigns an SRO must have a memorandum of understanding with the SRO's local law enforcement agency.

### **Suspensions and Expulsions**

The Commission participated in suspension and expulsion meetings and contributed to the development of legislative recommendations provided by the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee. Public Act 23-150 incorporates a requirement for districts with high rates of in-and-out of school suspension and expulsions to develop strategies to reduce these occurrences. The children's subcommission contributed to these meetings and helped develop these recommendations. The Department of Education is also tasked with reporting these disciplinary statistics to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.

### **Community-based bereavement and grief counseling study**

Public Act 23-101 requires the Statewide Social and Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory Collaborative to conduct a study of community-based bereavement and grief counseling organizations and services for children and families. The final report can be found [here](#).

### **Equal Access & Opportunity in Education**

Public Act 23-150 establishes a state Civics Education and Media Literacy Task force, which is charged with reviewing existing materials nationwide to identify and publicize best practices, receiving recommendations from stakeholders, reviewing existing opportunities for civics and media literacy education, and exploring the feasibility of public-private partnerships to fund and

implement new initiatives. This law also creates a Multilingual Learners Bill of Rights, which is to be drafted by the State Board of Education.

### **Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention**

The legislature approved \$7.8 million for the public-health center gun violence program this year, as well as \$5.0 million for housing vouchers for populations at risk of gun violence.

### **Suicide Prevention**

The children's subcommission recommended that the Department of Education provide to each local and regional board of education a list of recommended assessments for determining the suicide risk of students who exhibit mental health distress. This became law in section 79 Public Act 23-167.

### **Funding for Children's Subcommission Priorities**

A number of different appropriations were made towards priorities for the Children's Subcommission, including \$10.9 million for youth violence intervention programming, \$7.3 million for day services for over 900 age outs and high school graduates over the biennium, \$25 million in additional special education funding in FY2024 and FY 2025, \$6 million for student loan reimbursements, and \$14.2 million and \$53.3 million in FY 2024 and FY 2025 to fund rate increases of 11% for licenses childcare providers and 6% for unlicensed providers in the Care4Kids system.

### **Coercive Interrogations**

Public Act No. 23-27 established a rebuttable presumption that admissions, confessions, or statements made during custodial interrogations involving deceptive or coercive tactics by law enforcement are involuntary and inadmissible.

### **Financial Literacy**

Starting with the class of 2027, basic financial literacy became a mandatory requirement for Connecticut high school students, fostering opportunity, prosperity, and self-sufficiency.

### **Baby Bonds**

The pioneering CT Baby Bonds initiative aimed to combat systemic poverty and stimulate economic growth.

### **Voting Legislation**

The legislature advanced the No Excuse Voting Bill and Early Voting Legislation to facilitate easier access to polls, including no-excuse absentee voting pending voter approval in the 2024 general election, and a framework for early in-person voting.

### **Educator Scholarships**

The minority teacher candidate scholarship program was renamed the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program, adjusting the maximum grant amount and adding administrative staff.

### **Racial Profiling Prohibition**

The Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act was updated to reflect broader conditions contributing to racial profiling in law enforcement.

### **Voting Rights Protection**

The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act was enacted to safeguard against voting methods that impair the rights of protected classes and to address related violations.

### **HUSKY Coverage Expansion**

State HUSKY coverage was extended for undocumented children aged 12 to 15, with continued coverage through age 18, enhancing healthcare access for young residents. \$3 million was allocated for this expansion.



# 2023 Commission Community Engagement

## Early Voting Roundtable

On March 23, 2024, the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity (CWCSEO) held the Early Voting Roundtable to discuss the implementation of in-person early voting in Connecticut. This significant event featured discussions led by Amanda Zoch from the NCSL, members of the Latino and Puerto Rican Sub Commission, and various legislators. The roundtable provided a vital forum for exchanging ideas on how to expand voter access, particularly for historically underserved communities facing significant challenges in participating in elections. The input gathered undoubtedly enriched our understanding and efforts towards strengthening democracy by ensuring that every voice is heard in our electoral processes. We extend our gratitude to all participants for their contributions to this essential non-partisan dialogue.



## Rent Stabilization Roundtable

On March 6th, 2023, the Rent Stabilization Roundtable Series took place from 2 PM to 3:30 PM, focusing on the critical issues of evictions, displacement, and housing instability exacerbated by significant rent increases over the past two years. The series was designed to provide a platform for discussing the experiences of those impacted and to explore effective rent stabilization strategies. This initiative is part of the commission's ongoing commitment to housing justice and stability. The roundtable featured insightful discussions led by Cameron Rifkin and Heather Wilson, NCSL Policy Specialists, and was moderated by Steven Hernandez, the Executive Director of CWCSEO. The dialogue centered on addressing the urgent housing eviction crisis threatening Connecticut families with eviction and homelessness.



<https://www.facebook.com/CWCSEO/videos/184419590901641>

### Latino and Puerto Rican Voices for Climate Action RoundTable

As Hispanic Heritage Month concluded on October 15th, the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity (CWCSEO) continued its commitment to celebrating Hispanic heritage throughout the year. In partnership with Save the Sound, we hosted a compelling discussion on the unique environmental challenges faced by Latino communities. The event featured a keynote from Jayson Velazquez of the Acadia Center, updates on regional environmental justice assessments, and insights from community leaders, academics, and government officials. A legislative response panel and an update on the Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund for community-based sustainability initiatives were also highlights of the gathering. This event underscored the dedication of Latino leaders to a sustainable and equitable future.



### Puerto Rican Leadership Roundtable

On Thursday, September 28, 2023, the Latino and Puerto Rican division of the Connecticut General Assembly's Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity hosted a vibrant roundtable on Puerto Rican leadership at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Connecticut. This policy-oriented discussion delved into the significant contributions of local Puerto Rican leaders as cultural activists and historical preservationists. Attendees explored the socio-political implications of their volunteerism, particularly its impact on younger generations and the overall vibrancy of our region and state. This enriching conversation deepened our understanding of the vibrant Puerto Rican heritage and its influence on our community.



## Tu Voz, Tu Influencia Listening Sessions.

The Puerto Rican Studies Research Initiative at the University of Connecticut (UConn), in collaboration with The Puerto Rican/Latino Studies Project at UConn School for Social Work, the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work at UConn, and the Latino & Puerto Rican Division of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity (CWCSEO), hosted a series of listening sessions across Connecticut. These sessions, held in New London, Hartford, Waterbury, and New Haven, provided a platform for Latinos to voice their concerns and contribute insights on pressing issues within the community. The information gathered was presented at a nonpartisan Latino Summit in January of 2024 to municipal and state officials, aiding in the development of a comprehensive Latino Agenda. We are grateful for the active participation and valuable contributions from our community members.



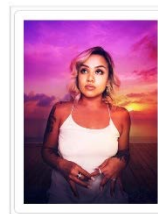
## Women's History Month Art Exhibition

During Women's History Month, the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity organized an art exhibit at the State Capitol showcasing the remarkable work of a local Connecticut artist Olivia Be' Nguyen, also known as "Fiyabomb." The exhibit featured "Fiyabomb's" phenomenal art and ran from February 23 to March 31, 2023.



### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ART EXHIBIT AT THE STATE CAPITOL

CWCSEO invites you to experience the innovative visioning of Pop Artist whose paintings speak to and educate the spirit of women and the next generation. Olivia, is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University where she studied Art and Marketing and is hosting galleries in multiple locations, including DC, NYC, and Connecticut.



**Artist: Olivia Be' Nguyen**  
Also known as "Fiyabomb"

#### Art Exhibit

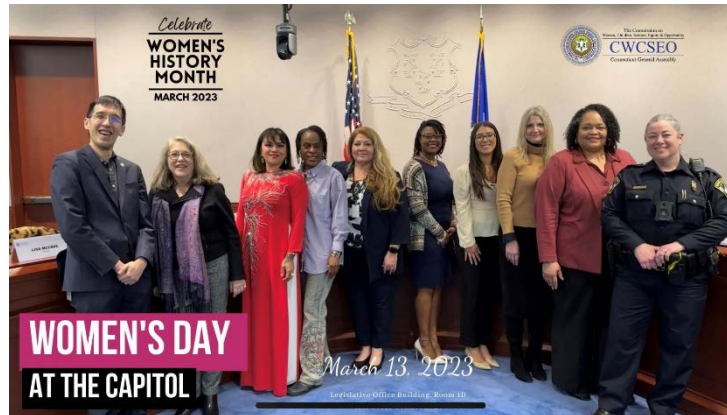
February 23 - March 15, 2023  
Legislative Office Building, Concourse  
300 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT

For more information contact: [WomensHistory@caso.ct.gov](mailto:WomensHistory@caso.ct.gov)



## Women's Day at the Capitol

On March 13, 2023, as part of the Women's History Month celebrations, the Commission organized a panel discussion titled "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Economic Power & Well-Being." The conversation centered on highlighting the strides made by our state on critical issues pertinent to women's advancement, as well as outlining the envisioned next steps for progress.



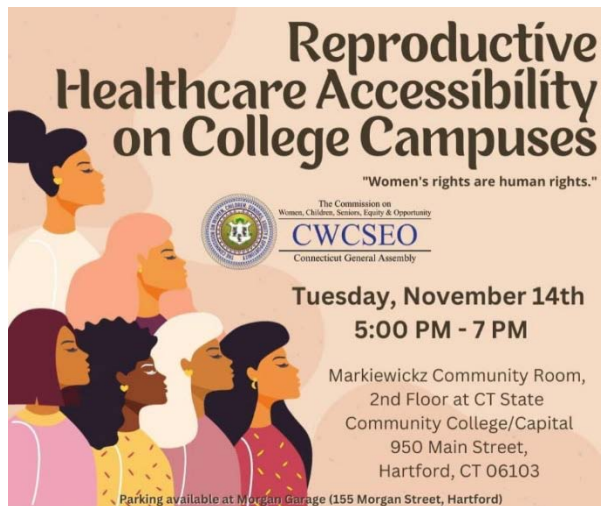
## Legislative Briefing on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

On November 6, 2023, the Commission organized a Legislative Briefing focusing on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGMC), featuring esteemed guest Mariya Taher, Co-Founder and U.S. Executive Director of Sahiyo, alongside experts from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The conversation delved into the strides achieved, obstacles encountered, and strategies moving forward to combat this detrimental practice. Through collaborative efforts, we aim to eradicate FGMC and advocate for a safer, healthier future for all individuals in Connecticut.



### **Reproductive Healthcare Accessibility on College Campuses Discussion**

On November 14, 2023, the Commission hosted a discussion concerning the accessibility of reproductive healthcare on college campuses. This conversation was prompted by the passage of Public Act 23-41 by the General Assembly in 2023, which mandates public higher education institutions with on-campus residences to formulate a plan addressing students' need for reproductive healthcare by January 1, 2024. The dialogue brought together various stakeholders, including representatives from campus and off-site health services providers, women's centers, state legislators, and victim advocacy services. Their contributions highlighted the available services and resources for students and emphasized the importance of not only offering reproductive healthcare on college campuses statewide but also ensuring that these services are easily accessible to students.



### **Yoga for Older Adults Free Workshop**

The Commission collaborated with Yoga In Our City (YIOC) and Waterbury Senior Center to host a free workshop of yoga for older adults.

### **International Day of Yoga**

The Commission partnered with Yoga In Our City and ConnectiCare to celebrate International Day of Yoga and foster stronger, more compassionate communities that deeply understand the inherent connections between yoga philosophy and social justice.

### **Interstate Model-Sharing Virtual Panel**

The Commission partnered with University of Connecticut's Asian and Asian American Institute (AAASI) to host this virtual panel that discussed important aspects in the policy process framework through the lens of AAPI curriculum education efforts.

### **Interview with Karen Li Miller, Research Historian at the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) Museum & Library**

The Commission conducted a video interview with Karen Li Miller, Research Historian at the CHS Museum & Library to discuss the “Journeys 旅途: Boys of the Chinese Educational Mission” Exhibit.

### **AAPJ Small Business Virtual Panel**

Held in recognition of National Small Business Week and the beginning of Asian Heritage Month, the Subcommittee hosted a virtual panel discussion where AAPJ small business owners across Connecticut shared their experiences, and federal agencies and state departments

### **Monterey Park Vigil**

The Commission helped organize a vigil in the Legislative Office Building (LOB) in response to the tragic event that occurred in Monterey Park, California in January 2023

### **Subcommittee Meetings of the SEL Collaborative**

The Commission played a leading role in the meetings of the Subcommittee to create Uniform Challenging Behavior Reporting Form, Subcommittee to create Connecticut School Climate Policy, and the Subcommittee to create Connecticut School Climate Standards

### **Getting it Right: Investing in Learning to Read, Reading to Learn, and the Future of Our State**

During this forum on March 3, 2023, we heard from educators, stakeholders, and administrators on the importance of k-3 early literacy programs.

### **Autism Awareness Day at the Capitol**

The event aims to raise awareness, enhance understanding, and address challenges confronting the autism community.

# 2023 Parent Leadership and Engagement

In 1992, focused on prevention and capacity building, the Commission on Children (predecessor to the CWCSEO) created The Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) as a statewide family civics initiative. PLTI enables parents and other caring adults to become leading advocates for children. The CWCSEO continues to support and lead PLTI in the State of Connecticut.

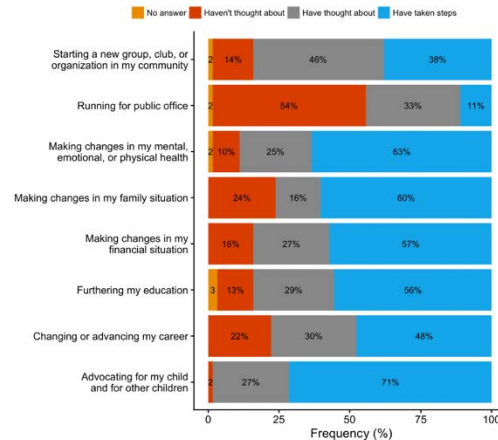
PLTI is the premier leadership training initiative for parent leaders in Connecticut. Through PLTI, parents who wish to improve the lifelong health, safety and learning of children become practiced change agents for the next generation.

The Children's Leadership Training Institute (CLTI) is a parallel course to the Parent Leadership Training Institute. CLTI uses literacy as a base and creates a full spectrum of activities that parallel the PLTI course and encompass the multiple intelligences.

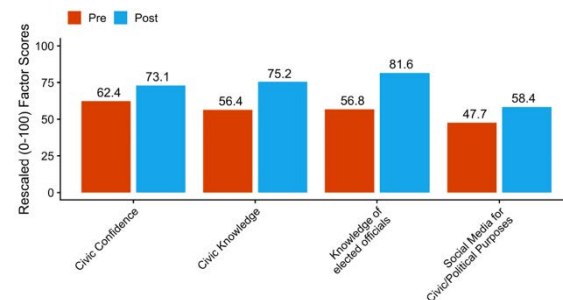
There were 7 PLTI cohorts in 2022-2023 sponsored by these communities: Bridgeport, Danbury, Middletown, Naugatuck, Stamford, Waterbury, and West Hartford.

## Personal and Civic Action

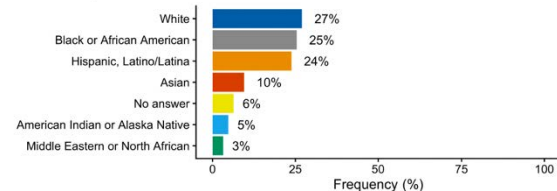
The overwhelming majority of parents reported that PLTI inspired them to think about or take steps to change their personal and civic lives.



The graph below shows the pre and post score for each construct. Original scores have been weighted and converted to 0-100 for easier interpretation and comparison between constructs.



## Race/Ethnicity



## 2023 Two Generational Initiatives

The 2Gen Parent Engagement workgroup ensured that the 2Gen advisory board parents had access and opportunity to engage in the initiative as well as receiving training in areas they identified as useful to their personal and professional growth and development as well as skills useful to their upward economic mobility. Parents contributed to the benefits cliff workgroup and workforce workgroups and actively participated in the parent engagement workgroup, which are subcommittees of the advisory board.

On February 24th, 2023, Two Gen Advisory Board Parents participated in the legislative info session held by the board at the Legislative Office Building. One parent opened the session with a keynote, and each panel discussion was led by parents and key partners, and moderated by a parent engagement workgroup co-chair.

Throughout the year, parents were offered ongoing training, coaching and mentorship by the parent engagement co- chairs and they participated in several leadership opportunities in the state and across the country.

### **Training & Onboarding**

Seven new parents were onboarded to the Advisory, bringing the parent membership to 12. These new parent members completed an eight hour onboarding training, which included the history and progress of the Two Gen Advisory Board as well as our way forward. The parents attended a legislative advocacy training delivered by Connecticut Association for Human Services which was a two-part training which focused on the legislative process, advocacy and delivering written and verbal testimony.

### **Parent Engagement Expansion**

We are deliberately and intentionally enhancing our parent engagement structure to be more inclusive and diverse by providing opportunities for more parents in the state to engage in our work. The intent is to invite a cohort of parents to learn and access leadership and professional development opportunities alongside our Two Gen Parent Leaders in an effort to:

1. Identify new parent board members
2. Align parents with opportunities to sit at other decision-making tables
3. Join and contribute to our Benefits Cliff & Workforce Workgroups - possibly merging to become an Economic Mobility Workgroup
4. Be prepared for other opportunities as they become available



# Coalitions and Partnerships

The CWCSEO serves or leads on the following coalitions:

- Coalition for Choice
- Healthy Youth Connecticut
- Family Law Working Group
- Maternal and Child Health Coalition
- Campaign for Paid Family Leave
- Secretary of State Civic Health Advisory Group
- Safe Havens Working Group
- Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
- Commission on the Standardization of the
- Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations
  - Trafficking in Persons Council
- Commission for Child Support Guidelines
- Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group
- Long-Term Care Advisory Council
- Council on Medicaid Assistance Program Oversight
- Task Force on Senior Centers
- Hospital Merger Watch Coalition
- Legislature's Task Force to Study School Climate
- Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board
- MTR Policy Oversight Committee
- Legislature's Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force
- Legislature's Achievement Gap Task Force
- LGBT Aging Advocacy

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity  
165 Capitol Avenue - Suite 1095  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(959) 900-5800  
[cwcseo@cga.ct.gov](mailto:cwcseo@cga.ct.gov)  
Twitter & Facebook: @CWCSEO  
[wp.cga.ct.gov/cwcseo](http://wp.cga.ct.gov/cwcseo)



The Commission on  
Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity  
**CWCSEO**  
Connecticut General Assembly