



Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20, 2024

Time: 10:30am –12:00 pm

Location: HYBRID - Legislative Office Building Room 1B and on Zoom.

Advisory Board Members That Attended: Alan Tan, Sylvia Ho (Hybrid), Joan Barere (Hybrid), Ada Fenick, Gerald Kerin (Hybrid), Jorge Grossman (Hybrid), Mui Mui Hin-McCormick (Hybrid), Hilda Nieves (Hybrid), Karen Jarmoc (Hybrid), Regina Vermont (Hybrid), Madeline Granato (Hybrid).

Advisory Board Members Absent/Excused: Penelope Young, Clifton Watson, Kunwar Umesh Vig, Liz Bumbgardner, Tiheba Williams-Bain, Brunilda Pizarro, Christianne Kovel, Tiana Victoria Hercules, Gladys Rivera, Nancy Heaton

Staff Attended: Yukiyo Iida, Denise Drummond, Thomas Nuccio, Megan Baker, Melvette Hill, Werner Oyanadel, Michael Werner, Christian Duborg, Rosemary Lopez

- I. CALL TO ORDER** Co-Chair Alan Tan called the meeting to order at 10:32 am
- II. WELCOMING AND CONVENING REMARKS FROM CO-CHAIRS** Co-Chair Tan opened the quarterly CWCSEO Advisory Board meeting with a warm welcome and shared a reminder that a Doodle Poll will be sent to everyone soon to schedule the upcoming 2025 advisory board meetings.
- III. CWCSEO PRIORITIES AND 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOCUS** Executive Director, Melvette Hill outlined the following priorities that the commission will focus on for 2025 in addition to work already underway: :
 1. **Youth and Young Adult Civic Engagement**
 2. **Health:** addressing mental health, maternal health, female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), reproductive health, and disability rights
 3. **Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention and School Safety**
 4. **Family Caregiving including** the growing number of grandparents taking on caregiving roles for their grandchildren
 5. **Housing Policy** with emphasis on rental insecurity
 6. **Immigration Issues**
 7. **Food and Nutrition Insecurity**
 8. **Environmental Issues**
 9. **Two-Generation (2GEN) Family Economic Mobility,** workforce development, and predictable scheduling fair work week wages
 10. **Child Tax Credit**
 11. **Benefits Cliffs**
 12. **Civic Engagement**



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Additionally, staff raised the following areas of importance:

1. Absentee voting and early voting.
2. Anticipated mass deportations under the new administration and the State's role in providing support.
3. A legislative proposal to create color-coded envelopes for individuals with cognitive and physical impairments and training for law enforcement and first responders.
4. School meals and the emergency food system
5. Language access
- 6.
7. Expanding awareness of Long-Term Care and Community Ombudsman programs, focusing on improving dental healthcare access for seniors.
8. The concept of a "floating holiday" to address the needs of different Asian-specific holidays.

Ms. Hill also mentioned some of the reports the commission will submit to the legislature before the new year.

1. Benefits cliff study to implement a pilot (as part of the 2Gen Initiative in partnership with OEC)
2. The State of Food and Nutrition Insecurity in CT
3. School Climate Model Policy and School Climate Surveys
4. Title IX report and Toolkit
5. Trafficking in Persons Annual Report
6. CWCSEO Annual Report

IV. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE NEXT STEPS

Alan Tan initiated the discussion on the Civic Engagement Standing Committee, noting the need for a chair who is neither himself nor Karen. The group shared their thoughts on the matter and offered several recommendations.

- Hilda Nieves expressed interest in seeing the youth's proposal to the commission. She also suggested defining the youth advisory council age range as 14 to 22 years old.
- Mui Mui Hin-McCormick proposed inviting youth representatives to participate in the discussion
- Melvette Hill emphasized the importance of creating a supportive space for this initiative. Alan suggested holding a special meeting to include youth voices in the conversation. A Doodle Poll will be sent out to schedule the meeting.
- Anyone interested in chairing the committee is encouraged to inform Alan Tan.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Alan Tan adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am



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