

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

Date: February 19, 2025  
Time: 12:30pm – 2:00 pm  
Location: Zoom

**Advisory Board Members That Attended:** Alan Tan, Sylvia Ho (Hybrid), Joan Barere (Hybrid), Ada Fenick, Gerald Kerin (Hybrid), Jordan 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 12:32 pm.
- 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Alan asked for motion to adopt minutes from previous meeting, Penny motion, Hilda second  
Unanimous passage, no abstentions or nays.

Advisory Board Member Mui Mui reminded the group that students approached in September. They are patient and optimistic, and they want to recruit more. They want to create youth advisory council to work with larger board. Trying to be inclusive in documentation and forms, regarding holding office.

Advisory board member Sylvia mentions students have a lot of energy, are underrepresented because they are young.

Megan Baker mentions that the students want to work beyond structure, working with disconnected youth in a wide path

Chairwoman Jarmoc asks if the Commission need to vote, or is this input session?

Chairman Tan mentions it requires a vote to adopt into civic engagement policy.

Chairwoman Jarmoc and Advisory Board Member Hilda discuss the

age group of the council.

Advisory board member suggests the council should be named Civic Engagement, not policy, not for them to lobby. So they are part of the process.

Chairman Tan mentions we may need to call special meetings as well to accommodate meetings for students.

Executive Director Hill mentions the proposed motion would be a motion to adopt the concept of a youth advisory council with a maximum of 30 young residents up to age 24 of Connecticut to be appointed to join this council which we move to house within our statutory standing committee on civic engagement. Any other adjustments to the council would need motions to be approved as well.

Executive Director and Chairwoman Jarmoc ask for a vote on the motion.

Moved by various members of the board and seconded by advisory board member Sylvia.

Item is unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Jarmoc discusses press release or press conference to highlight the council.

Dr. Grossman asked about a letter to superintendents he will work on for the executive committee.

#### **IV. LEGISLATIVE TRACKER**

Chairman Tan moved to the next item on the agenda.

Executive Director Hill thanked Megan, TJ and Christian for preparing the tracker, and mentioned staff has been working on testimony for Human Services, Aging and the Children's Committees. ilHi

Megan walked through tracker. Should be sending out more frequently. Highlighted event calendar and workgroup meetings. Cultural events like Lunar new year and AI event. Used 4 buckets. Health, Freedom from poverty, education success, freedom from discrimination. Listed in numerical order, you can see timeline and what the bills do.

Executive Director Hill mentions we are testifying on bills in tracker. We are willing to incorporate Board members for testimony. Hard to do regularly due to quick turnaround. We are glad to look at testimony drafted by members.

Werner mentions this is why Latino & PR subcommission has listed this as a priority. Last year was contentious public hearing. He was not surprised. Many impacted by high cost of housing. New supply is low and many people seeking rentals.

Advisory Board Member Nancy mentions for info only. Her group just funded \$500-600 for three years to support housing.

Advisory Board Member Sylvia states that housing is biggest crisis due to affordability. Could get worse and worse. Larger question of civil discourse and problem solving. As nonpartisan group, its worth for us to explore these housing issues. Landlords and tenants can have same ethnicity. Both sides are having issues. Particular districts can have loans going higher and higher. State statutes can have an impact. Landlords have to pay when tenants don't. We should open way for conversations to have good demonstration of having free speech. The discussion goes round and round, even with lawyers.

Executive Director Hill points well made. Similar issue with affordable childcare. Also need for childcare providers to have supports. Both sides need to be heard in respectful way. Once we have youth advisory board, should we look at civil discourse? Having respectful conversations is a good point.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting is made and seconded by Hilda. Passed unanimously to adjourn.