

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
 Illinois Council on Women and Girls
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 December 16th, 2020

A present majority of current non-ex-officio members shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Ex-Officio Mem.				
Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton		x	
Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)	Lilian Jimenez (rep. Grace Hou)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. on Aging)	Selma D'Souza (rep. Paula Basta)			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)	Donna Hardy (rep. James Bennett)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Children & Family Services)	Gaylon Alcaraz (rep. Marc Smith)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Healthcare & Fam. Services)	Director Theresa Eagleson			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Pub. Health)	Director Ngozi Ezike			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)	Marina Faz-Huppert (rep. Michael Kleinik)		x	
Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)	Jaelyn Matthews (Rep. Carmen Ayala)		x	
Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)	Director Ginger Ostro		x	
Ex-Officio (Community College Board)	Natasha Allan (rep. Brian Durham)			x
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)				
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Candace Coleman		x	
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Jennifer Lee			x
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Nikita Richards		x	
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Veronica Espina		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)				
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Ines Kutlesa		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Rhonda Thomas			x
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Theresa Forthofer		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Amanda Basso			x
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)				
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Aileen Kim		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Kaethe Morris Hoffer		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Maaria Mozaffar		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Wendy Pollack		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)				
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Brandy Donaldson			x

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Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vidhya Prakash		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Monique Garcia		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Pamela Althoff		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)				
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Amina Jaffer		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Drella Savage			x
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Rochelle Crump		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Sylvia Matos-Collins		x	
Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.				
Rep. of Gov.'s Office	Dep. Governor Sol Flores			x
Guest (non-member)				
Guest, Representative	Representative Anna Moeller			x
Guest, Senator	Senator Jackie Collins			x
Guest, DCEO	Ibie Hart		x	
Guest	Kelly Fair		x	

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 4:02PM
- b. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established

II. Approval of the Agenda for 12/16/20 and the Minutes from 08/26/20

- a. Approval of the agenda:
 - i. Moved by Ines Kutlesa
 - ii. Seconded by Maaria Mozaffar
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstentions
- b. Approval of minutes:
 - i. Moved by Sylvia Perez
 - ii. Seconded Nikita Richards
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstention

III. Chairperson's Remarks

- a. Lt Governor Stratton's remarks focused on the impact of COVID-19 on women in the workforce, specifically on how it has resulted in disproportionate job losses for Black and Latinx women. She emphasized the role of the Council on Women and Girls in including the voices of women in the post-pandemic recovery and notes that part of this will have to do with looking at the numbers as they relate to unemployment, who has been impacted, and in what industries women have been predominantly impacted

IV. New Business

- a. Presentation on Economic Data About Women During the COVID-19 Pandemic from Dr. George Putnam of the Illinois Department of Employment Security ("IDES"):

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- i. Presentation focused on discussing the economic outcomes for women during the pandemic as they sit along the intersection of industry, race, and class
- ii. When “move-up” rates—which speak to upward mobility in household income—for low-income households go up, these rates still remain lower amongst women than men, and “move-up” rates amongst black people are lower than amongst white people. These rates are lowest amongst black women
- iii. About 1/3 of low-income school seniors transitioned to high earners, and employment patterns in those who “move-up” are largely similar between women and men. However, earning disparities persist
 1. Lt. Governor Stratton: “So women are consistently experiencing earning disparities across the board?”
 2. Dr. George Putnam: “Yes”
- iv. Women workers have experienced higher levels of layoffs and persistent unemployment during the pandemic, with women representing 60% of layoffs and becoming the majority among those collecting unemployment
- v. The top industries receiving unemployment are all ones that have predominantly women employees
 1. Lt. Governor Stratton: “So many of these positions are positions that may not offer healthcare or have healthcare tied to employment, so it’s a double whammy in a way?”
 2. Dr. George Putnam: “Yes, because of low earning industries being impacted the general amount made has gone down as well”
 3. Lt. Governor Stratton: “So this is more broadly indicative of the fact that women are the ones being impacted, so it seems critical to address issues like stigma around collecting unemployment”
 4. Dr. George Putnam: “Definitely, it is important to connect them to resources and work around those issues, and it’s important to address this more broadly by possibly working to include questions about gender identity in federal labor market surveys”
- vi. Lt. Governor Stratton thanked Dr. George Putnam for this presentation and fielded additional questions from council members
 1. Rochelle Crump: “Were there any differentials between women veterans and these numbers?”
 - a. Dr. George Putnam: “We actually do not have that information because we are tracking them using high school as the starting point”
 - b. Lt. Governor Stratton: “Do you know any places where that kind of data is available? Through IDES or elsewhere in state government?”
 - c. Dr. George Putnam: “Veteran status is a part of the unemployment data from this presentation, but we have to be careful about privacy”
 - d. Kimberly Huth: “I know the VA reaches out to me as a retired airperson to ask about my employment needs, so I don’t know if that is tracked. I also wanted to ask the speaker to see if mental health information has ever been asked for as part of certification for unemployment insurance benefits”
 - e. Dr. George Putnam: “No, it is not collected”

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2. Maaria Mozaffar: “Is there a study that the agency will be doing to survey employers on why they terminate employees?”
 - a. Dr. George Putnam: “When an employee applies for unemployment, employers are given a chance to respond, but that has more to do with certifying unemployment”
 - b. Maaria Mozaffar: “I want to talk about why this disparity is created for women in the first place”
 - c. Wendy Pollack: “I know many years ago I helped share out the Women and Minorities report with IDES, I’m wondering if this Council can support that”
 - d. Dr. George Putnam: “I actually helped guide that process, so I’d be happy to engage on that”
 3. Lt. Governor Stratton thanks Dr. George Putnam for this presentation once again
- b. Annual Report Review and Motion to File:
- i. Lt Governor Stratton: Provided an overview that a draft of the semi-annual Council on Women and Girls report was sent out for review and opened the floor for comments
 - ii. Nikita Richards: “Thank you so much for all the work of this team. This report looks great. You captured the work of this Council and our committee so well”
 - iii. Ines Kutlesa: “I want to second what Nikita said. The only thing I’d note is perhaps revising the language on saying ‘stay at home order’ versus ‘shelter in place’”
 - iv. Dr. Vidhya Prakash: “It is really exciting to look at this report and see what we have accomplished together”
 - v. Sylvia Matos-Collins: “It feels great to see this all in writing, it brought me great joy”

Rochelle Crump: “I want to specifically highlight the great work Dr. Prakash has done, and I want to make sure we continue to work with community hospitals as well”
 - vi. Lt. Governor Stratton: “Thank you all for that discussion, we will work to implement these changes”
 - vii. Lt. Governor Stratton: “I will now entertain a motion to approve the Women and Girl’s annual report in principle and substance, allowing my staff to make reasonable modifications to finalize for a timely filing”
 1. Moved by Nikita Richards
 2. Seconded by Rochelle Crump
 3. All in favor
 4. No opposition
 5. No abstentions
- c. Committee Updates:
- i. Ines Kutlesa: “The Gender-Based Violence Committee has worked together with the Illinois State Police to further conversations about the rape-kit backlog, and we are looking to host a meeting with them to further discuss making progress on this. We look forward to next year, when this will remain our top priority”
 - ii. Ibie Hart: “The Academic and Economic Opportunity Committee has been focusing on the application materials for the Girl’s Committee. Our hope is that we will have completed the selection process by March. I will pass it to Jackie to talk more about that. We are also working to put together an event for February

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potentially to discuss childcare providers and the impact the pandemic has had on them

1. Jackie Mathews: “We’re working on getting this moving so we can stick to that [March] timeline. I am going to share the online application soon with those who volunteered to help review applications”
2. Ibie Hart shares data from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development on grants provided to women
 - a. Lt. Governor Stratton: “I want to be sure we share this data”
- iii. Nikita Richards: “The Leadership and Inclusion committee is focusing on launching our initial summit and working to make it big by bringing in some major speakers”
 1. Lt. Governor Stratton: “This is very exciting. Bobby, is this tied to the event I’ve been talking about regarding women across the state?”
 2. Bobby Mannis: “We are working to merge those two events”
- iv. Dr. Prakash: “The Health and Healthcare committee is working with the Illinois Department of Public Health to improve data collection on women’s health outcomes and put together a Health Equity Summit”

V. Member Updates

- a. Ines Kutlesa: “I want to note my grave concern over what is happening in our state with the requirements for foster care programs to be requiring in person sibling as well as child and family visits in the midst of a pandemic. Everyday, Dr. Ngozi Ezike of the Illinois Department of Public Health, who is on this committee with us, and Governor Pritzker plead for people to stay home and socially distance. We are asked not to convene with people who do not reside under the same roof, meanwhile our foster care children, biological families and staff are all put at risk continually by these foster care mandates, which could bring together adults and children from up to 5 different families all at the same time. Organizations were also having to wait much too long to get any kind of direction from the department when cases were increasing rapidly – something needs to be done about this.”
 - i. Lt. Governor Stratton notes connectivity issues on Ines’ end and asks that she follow up with the office to clarify her remarks for the record.

VI. Public Comments

- a. No public comments

VII. Adjournment

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton offered closing remarks noting two stories about women from the past week—the dismissal of Dr. Jill Biden’s title as Dr. by an article in the Wall Street Journal, and the story of Anjanette Young of Chicago, who had officers break into her home while she was unclothed, ignoring her screams of protest. Lt. Governor Stratton noted that while the two stories are not equivalent, both speak to the varying ways women are minimized, and how such minimization speaks to the belittling of all women. Lt. Governor Stratton noted this is unacceptable.
- b. Motion to adjourn at 5:37
 - i. Moved by Lt. Governor Stratton at 5:37PM
 - ii. Seconded by Maaria Mozaffar
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition

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v. No abstentions