

OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
 Illinois Council on Women and Girls  
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
 February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

| <b>A present majority of filled non-ex-officio positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11 non-ex-officio members present</b> |   |         |       |        |
|--|---|---------|-------|--------|
| Position   | Name                                      | Present | Phone | Absent |
| <b>Ex-Officio</b>  |   |         |       |        |
| Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)  | <b>Lt. Governor</b> 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)   | <b>Director</b> Theresa Eagleson          |         |       | x      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Pub. Health)  | <b>Director</b> Ngozi Ezike               |         |       | x      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)  | Marina Faz-Huppert (rep. Michael Kleinik) |         |       |        |
| Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)  | Jaclyn Matthews (Rep. Carmen Ayala)       |         | x     |        |
| Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)   | <b>Director</b> Ginger Ostro              |         |       | x      |
| Ex-Officio (Community College Board)   | Natasha Allan (rep. Brian Durham)         |         |       | x      |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Gov.)</b>  |   |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)   | Candace Coleman                           |         |       | x      |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)   | Jennifer Lee                              |         |       | x      |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)   | Nikita Richards                           |         |       | x      |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)   | Veronica Espina                           |         |       | x      |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (House Min.)</b>  |   |         |       |        |
| 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      |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)</b>   |   |         |       |        |
| 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     |        |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)</b>   |   |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)  | Pending                                   |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)  | Vidhya Prakash                            |         | x     |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)  | Monique Garcia                            |         |       | x      |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)  | Pamela Althoff                            |         |       | x      |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)</b>  |   |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)   | Amina Jaffer                              |         | x     |        |

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| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Drella Savage                      |  | x |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Rochelle Crump                     |  | x |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Sylvia Perez                       |  | x |   |
| <b>Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.</b> |                                    |  |   |   |
| Rep. of Gov.'s Office             | <b>Dep. Governor</b> Sol Flores    |  |   | x |
| <b>Guest (non-member)</b>         |                                    |  |   |   |
| Guest, Representative             | <b>Representative</b> Anna Moeller |  |   | x |
| Guest, Senator                    | <b>Senator</b> Jackie Collins      |  |   | x |
| Guest, DCEO                       | Ibie Hart                          |  | x |   |
| Guest                             | Kelly Fair                         |  |   | x |

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda for 02/24/21 and Approval of Minutes from 12/16/20
  - a. Agenda
    - i. Motioned by Ines Kutlesa
    - ii. Seconded by Theresa Forthofer
    - iii. All in favor
    - iv. No opposition
    - v. No abstentions
  - b. Minutes
    - i. Motioned by Donna Hardy
    - ii. Seconded by Ines Kutlesa
    - iii. All in favor
    - iv. No opposition
    - v. No abstentions
- III. Chairperson's Remarks
- IV. New Business
  - a. Presentation from Christine Traversa, 3<sup>rd</sup>-year law student at John Marshall Law School, on the importance of addressing domestic violence and financial abuse
    - i. Ines provides an introduction for Christine
    - ii. Christine Traversa shares her story and discusses the importance of creating resources for women struggling with these issues
  - b. Discussion on Women's History Month event planning
    - i. Lt. Governor notes that the celebration will be very different this year than it was last year, but will come in the form of a virtual women's summit consisting of multiple events uplifting women leaders in Illinois,
  - c. Committee updates
    - i. Ines Kutlesa provided an update that the Gender-Based Violence Committee has working to have discussions to connect with leaders across the state on supporting the work of the committee and has developed questions to discuss the rape kit backlog with ISP. She notes that she attended a webinar discussing this issue and has shared information related to it with the committee.

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- ii. Ibie Hart provided an update on the Academic and Economic opportunity committee, noting that they received 312 applications to the Girl's Committee. She emphasized that diversity and equity will be key in the selection process and asks for volunteers.
  - iii. Maaria Mozaffar provided an update on the Leadership and Inclusion committee, notes her support for the Girls' Committee and expresses the Leadership and Inclusion committee's excitement for the Illinois Girls Lead launch event and other work surrounding the initiative.
  - iv. Vidhya Prakash provided an update on the Health and Healthcare Committee, discusses that a list of stakeholders has been compiled to help collect data. The committee worked with IDPH to put together this list and an agenda to build out a plan for a health equity summit.
- d. Lt. Governor notes the great work of the committees and asks if there are any questions
- i. Ines asks for details on the Women's History month events and the Lt. Governor's Policy Director, Bobby Mannis, provides details on the date, time and format of the events.
    - 1. Lt. Governor Stratton adds that the events will be every Wednesday in March at 5:30, and that the Council has inspired the State of Women speech with all they do personally and professionally.

V. Member Updates

- a. Theresa Forthofer mentions that the organization she works with, Easter Seals, is working help tackle racial disparities in healthcare, specifically by offering funded testing for disabilities at their centers. She notes that she would like to share out this information to make sure it reaches community partners.
- b. Jackie Mathews notes that there is a grant coming up from ISBE to specifically increase the number of women and girls in STEAM and asks that Council members reach out to her with suggestions.
  - i. Lt. Governor notes that her office can support outreach and make sure young girls are also getting information about the Women's History Month events.
- c. Wendy Pollack notes the work the Shriver Center is doing during legislative session. She adds that it would be beneficial for Council members to share pertinent legislation they may be working on for other Council members to be aware of.
  - i. Lt. Governor notes the opportunity to file witness slips.
- d. Maaria Mozaffar shares information on five pieces of legislation she has helped work on for the ongoing session.

VI. Public Comments

- a. Lt. Governor notes that the next meeting is set for end of May, but adds that the date will be changed to account for legislative session. The time will remain at 4-5:30 PM.

VII. Adjournment

- a. 4:59 pm
  - i. Motioned by Maaria Mozaffar

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- ii. All in favor
- iii. No opposition
- iv. No abstentions