

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON  
 Illinois Council on Women & Girls  
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
 December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

<b>A present majority of current non-ex-officio members shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11</b>				
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Ex-Officio Mem.</b>				
Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)	<b>Lt. Governor</b> Juliana Stratton	X		
Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)	Ngoan Le (rep. Grace Hou)			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. on Aging)	Selma D'Souza (rep. Paula Basta)		X	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)	<b>Director</b> 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)	X		
Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)	Jaclyn Matthews (Rep. Carmen Ayala)	X		
Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)	<b>Director</b> Nyle Robinson		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>				

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON  
 Illinois Council on Women & Girls  
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
 December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Brandy Donaldson			X
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		
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Drella Savage		X	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Rochelle Crump	X		
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Sylvia Matos-Collins	X		
<b>Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.</b>				
Rep. of Gov.'s Office	Pending			X
<b>Guest (non-member)</b>				
Guest, Representative	Anna Moeller			X
Guest, Senator	Jackie Collins			X
Guest	Akanksha Balekai	X		
Guest	Seobia Rivers	X		
Guest	Tanya Lozano	X		
Guest	Kelly Fair	X		
<b>Governor's Staff (non-member)</b>				
N/A	Ramon Gardenhire			X
N/A	Tiffany Newbern			X
<b>Lt. Governor's Staff (non-member)</b>				
N/A	Charles Watkins			X
N/A	Teresa Reyes	X		
N/A	Dartesia Pitts			X
N/A	Robert Mannis	X		
N/A	Lynsey Johnson	X		
N/A	Levi Bain	X		

**1. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 5:30PM**

- Roll call taken and quorum established

**2. Approval of the meeting agenda for December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and meeting minutes from September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

- Agenda
  - Motion made by Rochelle Crump
  - Motion seconded by Nikita Richards
  - All in favor
  - None opposed
- Minutes
  - Motion made by Ines Kutlesa

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON  
Illinois Council on Women & Girls  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- Motion seconded by Nikita Richards
- All in favor
- None opposed

### 3. Chairperson's remarks

- **Lt. Governor Stratton**
  - Thanked everyone for coming to the Healthy Hood Site
  - Briefly turned it over to **Tanya Lozano**
    - Thanked everyone for coming to Heathy Hood and discusses the work that the organization does
  - Discussed the importance of the Council
    - The model used for CWG is being used for the other councils that she chairs
  - Discussed her work related to women and girls throughout the State
  - Discussed the history of the Council and the journey to this point

### 4. New business

- Review of the Strategic Report (see Appendix I)
  - Robert Mannis discussed the behind-the-scenes work needed to develop the report and the changes that need to be made to the report to have it finalized
    - **Wendy Pollack**
      - Why aren't the recommendations more specific?
        - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
          - What would be more helpful in making this more specific? What would you like to see in the recommendations?
            - **Wendy Pollack**
              - Not sure yet, but I will get back to the office about this
    - **Aileen Kim**
      - I would like to see data on the Asia-American community
    - **Vidhya Prakash**
      - I really liked reading through the report, but I understand that we would be able to get more granular with these recommendations, correct?
        - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
          - Yes, this is correct. We are not here to stifle the work, we want to work in a way that allows growth of our ideas and nuanced thought
    - **Candace Coleman**
      - For some recommendations the language says "differently abled" and for others it says "people with disabilities." This should only say "people with disabilities"
        - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
          - We will make these changes not just in the report, but in all the work that the office produces
    - **Gaylon Alcaraz**

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON

Illinois Council on Women & Girls

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- We should include data on the LGBTQ+ communities
  - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
    - Can you provide our office with that?
      - **Gaylon Alcaraz**
        - Yes
  - **Sylvia Matos-Collins**
    - The gender-based responsiveness training for the police and first responders, is this something we are still looking to do?
      - **Robert Mannis**
        - Yes, we want to start with a pilot program for local police and move over to other first responders afterwards
          - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
            - I concur; we want to run a pilot that is successful that we can then use as leverage to expand
  - **Nikita Richards**
    - The “1 woman of color governor”, is that in Illinois or in the country?
      - **Robert Mannis**
        - That is in the country, and we should change the language so that this is clear
  - **Wendy Pollack**
    - There is mention of paid family leave in the data, but there is no recommendation around it. We should consider making a recommendation around this
  - **Gaylon Alcaraz**
    - Let’s change language to say “LGBTQI+”, not “LGBTQ”
  - **Jaclyn Matthews**
    - RE: the recommendation of compiling the catalogue of pipeline groups for girls, if our target audience is young people, then we might want to make this something that it more user-friendly for them – that is, not a white paper report, but something that folds in technology
      - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
        - I like this. I think something like an app would be great to implement
  - **Rochelle Crump**
    - Leaving out domestic violence from the gender-based violence recommendations is bad
      - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
        - Is there any reason we cannot include data on domestic violence?
          - **Robert Mannis**
            - No, and if folks can share the information with us on this, it would be great
  - **Maaria Mozaffar**

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON

Illinois Council on Women & Girls

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- We should include information on the process of how certain issues became the main priorities so that readers know why certain recommendations are included in the report over others that were developed by the committees
- Lt. Governor Stratton requested a motion to finalize the strategic report per feedback at the current meeting (as is possible)
  - Motion made by Nikita Richards
  - Motion seconded by Ines Kutlesa
  - All in favor
  - None opposed
- Robert Mannis discussed the implementation strategy for the report
  - Our office will reach out to the different committees in the new year and come together to discuss the relevant stakeholders and figure out how we can call them in and begin putting together working groups to engage in this work with the Council
- Robert Mannis & Teresa Reyes explain the public-facing event for the report
  - Teresa explains that the event will be in Springfield and will happen in late January or early February
  - Robert explains that the biggest focus ought to be in the priority recommendations

## 5. Member updates

- **Gaylon Alcaraz**
  - I've been with IDCFS for a year and half; I have come to the agency as an activist for 25+ years
- **Wendy Pollack**
  - If you don't know how to submit witness slips online, give me your card and we can work that out
  - There will be a paid family medical leave insurance program that will be introduced next year, and we want to ensure that everyone is included in this program regardless of access to resources
    - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
      - I want a brief presentation on filing witness slips at the next meeting
        - **Wendy Pollack**
          - I can do this
- **Lt. Governor Stratton**
  - My office recently held a culminating event for the Through Our Eyes campaign – a 6-month tour of listening sessions focused on Alzheimer's – and is now moving over to the implementation stage

## 6. Public comment

- **Maaria Mozaffar**
  - I want to thank my mom, Yasmeen Mozaffar, for coming
- **Yasmeen Mozaffar**
  - Thank you for having me here and I hope that you can find me of assistance with council work in the future

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON  
Illinois Council on Women & Girls  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**7. Meeting adjourned at 6:41PM**

- Motioned made by Rhonda Thomas
- Motion seconded by Maaria Mozaffar
- All in favor
- None opposed

# Appendix I



**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT  
GOVERNOR**

Juliana Stratton – Lieutenant Governor

**ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON WOMEN & GIRLS**

**Report on Women and Girls in  
Illinois**

*a 2019 report by the Office of the  
Illinois Lieutenant Governor and the  
Illinois Council on Women & Girls*



**Introductory Letter**

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

DRAFT

# Executive Summary

## **Council Overview and Activities**

<b>Legislative Mandate</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Public Act 100-913 mandates the council to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policy issues and initiatives impacting the lives of women and girls in Illinois.	
<b>Membership Composition</b> .....	<b>4</b>
The Council is made up of 32 members, including individuals appointed by the Governor and members of the General Assembly and ex-officio members.	
<b>Creating and Building the Illinois Council on Women and Girls</b> .....	<b>4</b>
The Council was championed during the 100 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly by Senator Jackie Collins and Representative Anna Moeller. Following a celebration of the council’s creation on April 9, 2019, council members met three times as a group and served on at least one issue-based committee: Gender-Based Violence, Academic & Economic opportunity, Leadership & Inclusion, and Health & Healthcare. These committees provided the following recommendations for the Governor and Legislature to improve gender equity in Illinois.	

## **Status Reports and Recommendations**

<b>Priority Recommendations</b> .....	<b>5</b>
One recommendation from each committee has been deemed a priority recommendation for implementation:	
1) Reduce the rape kit backlog – Gender-Based Violence	
2) Develop an economic industry pipeline report – Leadership & Inclusion	
3) Increase student representation in the executive branch - Academic & Economic opportunity	
4) Expand postpartum healthcare coverage for women – Health & Healthcare	
<b>Committee Status Reports and Recommendations</b> .....	<b>6</b>
The committees made fourteen additional recommendations: three about Gender-Based Violence, four about Academic & Economic opportunity, three about Leadership & Inclusion, and three about Health & Healthcare.	
Gender-Based Violence.....	<b>6</b>
Academic & Economic opportunity.....	<b>7</b>
Leadership & Inclusion.....	<b>8</b>
Health & Healthcare.....	<b>9</b>

<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>10</b>
The Council on Women and Girls will engage with the Governor’s office, Lieutenant Governor’s office, General Assembly, state agencies, local government officials, and community partners to implement the recommendations outlined in this report.	

<b>Acknowledgements and References</b> .....	<b>11</b>
--	-----------

## **Council Overview and Activities**

### **Legislative Mandate**

The goal of the Council, established by Public Act 100-913, is to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policy issues and initiatives impacting the lives of women and girls in Illinois. This mandate includes, but is not limited to:

- Advancing role and civic participation of women and girls in the State
- Advocating for programs and policies that work to end the gender pay gap and discrimination in professional and academic opportunities
- Promoting resources and opportunities for academic and professional growth
- Improving legal protections and recourse regarding sexual harassment in the workplace
- Reducing violence against women
- Improving standards of, and access to, healthcare in general and reproductive healthcare in particular
- Researching the disparate impacts of a lack of access to healthcare on women
- Improving protections for transgender individuals, especially protections against violence and harassment
- Increasing fair and equal access to culturally competent healthcare, housing, employment, and other factors related to the quality of life
- Disseminating information to, and building of relationships with, state agencies and commissions in furtherance of the Council's goals
- Increasing attention around the inclusion of women, especially those of color, in decision-making capacities

## **Membership Composition**

The following members compose the Illinois Council on Women and Girls, per Public Act 100-913:

- 32 members
  - 16 public members appointed by the General Assembly
    - 4 appointed by the House Speaker
    - 4 appointed by the House Minority Leader
    - 4 appointed by the Senate President
    - 4 appointed by the Senate Minority Leader
  - 1 representative of the Governor's Office appointed by the Governor
  - 4 public members appointed by the Governor
  - 11 ex-officio members or their designees
    - Lieutenant Governor
    - Chief of the Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Services, Department of Human Services
    - Director, Executive Director or Superintendent of the following State Agencies:
      - Department on Aging
      - Department of Human Rights
      - Department of Children and Family Services
      - Department of Healthcare and Family Services
      - Department of Public Health
      - Department of Labor
      - State Board of Education
      - Board of Higher Education
      - Community College Board

## **Creating and Building the Illinois Council on Women and Girls**

The bill creating the Illinois Council on Women and Girls was championed by Senator Jackie Collins and Representative Anna Moeller. Public Act 100-913 was signed into law in 2018 and appointments to the council were announced on April 9, 2019. On that date, Governor JB Pritzker joined Lieutenant Governor Stratton and First Lady MK Pritzker to celebrate the formation of the Council on Women and Girls. Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton was appointed chair of the Council.

The Council has since held three quarterly meetings – on June 12, September 18, and December 18, 2019 – to determine committees, discuss recommendations, and finalize this report.

The Council formed four committees on June 12: Gender-Based Violence, Leadership & Inclusion, Academic & Economic opportunity, and Health & Healthcare. Committees met between council meetings to propose, review, and discuss recommendations.

## **Status Reports and Recommendations**

### **Priority Recommendations**

One recommendation from each committee has been deemed a priority recommendation for implementation:

- 1) **Gender-Based Violence**: The Council will, in partnership with the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, and community partners, will work to reduce the existing rape kit backlog by supporting legislative and policy changes that will improve efficiency for publicly funded crime laboratories

**Rationale:** Survivors of gender-based violence deserve speedy processing of DNA kits that currently have backlogs at forensic lab facilities in Illinois. Supporting measures that will increase efficiency and resources availability will help to prevent gender-based violence and conclude legal cases disproportionately impacting women.

- 2) **Leadership & Inclusion**: The Council will oversee the development of an economic industry pipeline report developed by state agencies and community partners. The report will catalogue existing pipeline groups for girls interested in pursuing careers in medicine, business, law, and STEAM. Additionally, the report should include information about industry access for DCFS-impacted, differently abled, LGBTQ+, immigrant, and racially diverse girls.

**Rationale:** Girls in Illinois deserve every chance to succeed, including clear pathways to economic security and success. Creating a report that outlines how girls enter into medicine, business, law, and STEAM jobs will give public and private entities an understanding of how inequities in the labor market exist. Equipped with this knowledge, Illinois will be better informed in its approach to reach pay equity.

- 3) **Academic & Economic Opportunity**: The Council will encourage improved student representation in the executive branch by partnering with the Governor's Office and state agencies and serving as a liaison between students and these partners. This should be accomplished by finding formal opportunities for younger girls to engage with the executive branch through interaction with staffers at the Office of the Governor and Office of the Lieutenant Governor and relevant executive branch agency, councils, and initiatives.

**Rationale:** Ensuring formal opportunities to younger girls to engage with the executive branch, through meetings with staff from the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, will bring the perspective of young people into policy making.

- 4) Health & Healthcare: The Council will support the expansion of postpartum healthcare coverage for women by engaging with relevant stakeholders to implement legislative and policy changes.

**Rationale:** Expectant and postpartum mothers, regardless of immigration status, need affordable coverage to protect their lives and the lives of their children. The Illinois Maternal Mortality and Morbidity report outlines the need for increased health insurance coverage coverage, and the Illinois Council on Women and Girls uplifts these recommendations for the state.

### **Committee Status Reports and Recommendations**

The following status reports describe the challenges and opportunities women and girls face in the state of Illinois. The status reports are a brief description of the landscape relevant to the different committees, and do not reflect the entire policy landscape that women and girls face in Illinois.

#### **Gender-Based Violence:**

Sexual and gender-based violence “refers to any act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and is based on gender norms and unequal power relationships.”<sup>iii</sup> 37,000+ Illinoisans received services from Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) rape crisis centers from 2011 to 2015<sup>iii</sup>. Of those who accessed these services:

- 89.4% of survivors were female
- 86% of survivors knew their perpetrators from previous interactions
- 94% of survivors were younger than 50

Gender-based violence disproportionately affects black and Latinx Illinoisans.<sup>iv</sup> Of those who accessed ICASA services (because some individuals identified as more than one race, these figures add up to more than 100%):

- ~25% identify as Latinx (17% of the state’s population in 2014)
- 25.4% identify as black (14.6% of the state’s population in 2014)
- 74.5% identify as white, (76.9% of the state’s population in 2014)

The disproportionate impact and prevalence of gender-based violence against women, in particular women of color, highlights the necessity of implementing comprehensive programs to educate the public about gender-based violence and supporting survivors.

#### **Recommendations**

- 1) Execute a public awareness campaign about gender-based violence and available resources in rural communities with messaging targeting veterans, people of different abilities, and the LGBTQ community
- 2) Call upon local officials to assess the status of women and girls in the areas they represent with a focus on gender-based violence

- 3) Ensure that elementary and secondary students who are parents, expectant parents, or survivors of gender-based violence can safely stay in school, succeed academically and complete their education
- 4) Pilot a comprehensive, trauma-informed gender-based violence responsiveness training for local police with special considerations of the LGBTQ community and people of different abilities

### **Academic & Economic Opportunity:**

Great strides have been made in girls' academic outcomes and equity, yet these outcomes have not translated into professional equity or representation in certain academic fields.

- Women represent 57% of enrollment in postsecondary education, yet they make up 46% of the 1.1 million students enrolled in pre-kindergarten education.<sup>v</sup>
- Women represent only 30% of all STEM degree holders, and only 24% of STEM jobs despite making up more than half of college-educated workers.<sup>vi</sup>
- The perception of discrimination in an industry has been found to deter women from pursuing a career in that field.<sup>vii</sup>

Women's academic outcomes are skewed along racial lines, with African American girls facing greater punitive disciplinary measures in school and lower college completion than white women.

- African American girls are suspended at six times the rate of white girls <sup>viii</sup>
- Among women aged 25-35, less than 25% of African American women possess 4-year degrees, compared to more than 40% among white women in the same age group

In the workforce, women experience a pay gap so severe that they typically need an extra degree to make as much as men, despite making up the majority of the college educated workforce. <sup>ix</sup> This gap is further exacerbated along racial lines.

- In Illinois in 2017, women who worked full time earned 78 cents on the dollar compared to similarly employed men, and are not expected to see equal pay until 2065.<sup>x</sup>
- African American and Latina women in Illinois earned 62.6 and 49.2 cents per dollar white men earned in the same period, respectively.<sup>xi</sup>

Illinois falls behind the national average in unpaid and paid leave, and access to affordable childcare is limited.

- Annual cost of childcare for an infant to four-year-old in a childcare center in Illinois is 33% of the median income for families with children <sup>xii</sup>.
- The Illinois Preschool for All Initiative, due to lack of funding, has to prioritize at-risk children.
- Illinois Child Care and Development Block Grants only serve 10% of federally eligible children<sup>xiii</sup>

Under current policies, women will continue to be underrepresented in important sectors of the workforce and be underpaid relative to their male counterparts. Greater focus needs to be put on the causes and barriers to equity, especially for underrepresented women.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1) Increase collaboration between the IL Educational Opportunities for Military Children Council (IEOMCC) and the Military Economic Development Committee to integrate efforts to better serve students and parents on and around Illinois military bases
- 2) Increasing access to affordable childcare, especially for women in school and in the workforce
- 3) Improve access to information for pregnant, justice-involved women about their rights related to custody
- 4) Protect college students who may fall behind academically due to experiencing gender-based violence

### **Leadership & Inclusion:**

Women make up a majority of undergraduate education enrollment yet remain substantially underrepresented in leadership roles across professional industries.<sup>xiv</sup>

Women make up:

- 48.5% of all law degrees and 45% of associates, but only 22.7% of partners and 19% of equity partners
- 47.5% of all medical degrees and 40% of physicians, yet only 16% of permanent medical school deans
- 61% of accountants and auditors, 53% of financial managers, and 37% of financial analysts, but only represent 12.5% of chief financial officers in Fortune 500 companies

The representation gap stark in corporate and political leadership, and is further skewed along racial lines. Women make up:

- Approximately 40% of all management roles,<sup>xv</sup> but only 6.4% of Fortune 500 CEO roles<sup>xvi</sup>
  - Women of color represent 0.2% of Fortune 500 CEOs<sup>xvii</sup>
- 24% of congressional seats, but only 9% are women of color<sup>xviii</sup>
- 28% of seats in state legislatures, 18% of gubernatorial seats, and 23% of mayoral seats in the largest 100 cities<sup>xixxxxxi</sup>
  - There is only 1 governor who is a woman of color<sup>xxii</sup>
- 35.6% of seats in the Illinois state legislature, which, while above average, is still far from gender parity<sup>xxiii</sup>

Despite greater female representation in Illinois politics compared to the national average, Chicago and Illinois more broadly still lag behind the national average in the growth women-owned businesses. Since pre-recession 2007:<sup>xxiv</sup>

- Total number of women-owned firms in the Chicago metropolitan area have increased 47% and revenues have increased 18%, whereas nationally women-owned businesses grew 58% and revenue increased 46%
- At the state level, women-owned firms grew 35% and revenues increased 19%

Given the significant gap between general representation in professional careers and leadership within these careers, a focus on both early stage leadership and career opportunities as well as improvements to fair market access for minority-owned businesses is necessary to not only improve women's representation within a specific industry, but also their representation among industry leaders.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1) Encourage legislators to create mentorship opportunities for girls in their districts through the creation of youth advisory boards, informal meetings with school groups, and partnerships with mentorship organizations in their districts.
- 2) Improve professional opportunities for young women through internship partnerships between schools and Illinois high-growth industries
- 3) Execute a study of bilingual services in Illinois private corporations to assess utilization of bilingual skills and accompanying compensation

### **Health & Healthcare:**

Legal protections for reproductive rights in Illinois are robust and innovative at a time when *Roe v. Wade* is at risk of being overturned. As of June 2019, Governor Pritzker signed the *Reproductive Health Act* into law, which establishes the "fundamental right" of a woman to have an abortion.<sup>xxv</sup> Nonetheless, affordable access to family planning services remains a challenge.

- In 2014, 772,510 ciswomen between the ages of 13 and 44 needed publicly funded contraceptive services.<sup>xxvi</sup>
- Yet, in the same period, publicly supported family planning centers in Illinois only provided services to 154,660 people who became pregnant, or 20% of actual need<sup>xxvii</sup>

Illinois' maternal and infant mortality rates are above the national average, and especially severe for non-Hispanic black women.

- Illinois' infant mortality rate, at 6.1 deaths per 1,000 live births is higher than the national rate of 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births<sup>xxviii</sup>
- Illinois' pregnancy-related mortality ratio is 23 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 births, higher than the national rate of 17.2 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 births<sup>xxix</sup>

- In Illinois, non-Hispanic Black women are six times as likely to die of a pregnancy-related condition as non-Hispanic White women<sup>xxx</sup>

Illinois is a national leader in reproductive rights protections, but the gap in maternal mortality among marginalized racial groups warrant additional study, stakeholder outreach and a renewed commitment to upholding the recommendations of the Illinois Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Report.

**Recommendations:**

- 1) Improve maternal mortality and morbidity through increasing access to substance use and mental health services for pregnant and postpartum women.
- 2) Increase access to information about existing health disparities in Illinois through improved data collection
- 3) Develop a statewide health equity planning coalition with relevant public and private stakeholders

**Next Steps**

The Council on Women and Girls will engage with the Executive branch, General Assembly, local governments, and community partners to assist with the implementation of the recommendations outlined in this report.

Collaborative efforts of this kind will not only ensure the council has the necessary supports for the successful implementation of its recommendations, but will also provide the foundation for future women- and girl-conscious policy and advocacy in the State.

The Council will focus on the following recommendations as priority for implementation efforts:

1. Reducing the rape kit backlog
2. Developing an economic industry pipeline report
3. Increasing student representation in the executive branch
4. Expanding postpartum healthcare coverage for women

Working groups that include councilmembers and relevant stakeholders will be convened to finalize and execute implementation strategies.

## Acknowledgements

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls is made up of appointed and ex-officio members who contributed their time, talent, and ideas to the work of the council and this report. Asterisk denotes a member serving as committee chair.

Aileen	Kim
Amanda	Basso
Amina	Jaffer
Anna	Moeller
Brandy	Donaldson
Candace	Coleman
Dr. Vidhya	Prakash*
Drella	Savage
Ines	Kutlesa*
Jackie	Collins
Jennifer	Lee
Kaethe	Morris Hoffer
Maaria	Mozaffar*
Monique	Garcia
Nikita	Richards*
Pamela	Althoff
Rhonda	Thomas
Rochelle	Crump
Sylvia	Perez Matos-Collins
Theresa	Forthofer
Veronica	Espina
Wendy	Pollack

The Council is extremely grateful to the governmental bodies, non-profits organizations, and companies that gave their time to discuss the Illinois Council on Women and Girls and this report.

We want to thank the Office of Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton staffers for their work.

Teresa Reyes leads staff efforts for the Illinois Council on Women and Girls.

Bobby Mannis served as chief author for this report.

Charles Watkins, Dartesia Pitts, Doresah Ford-Bey, Jose Sanchez-Molina, Janelle Gurnsey, Emily Harwell, Levi Bain, Lynsey Johnson, Akanksha Balekai Katherine Cartiglia, Ashrita Gottumukkula, Nick Newton-Cheh, and Alluana Landheart contributed to event planning, stakeholder interaction, and report development.

## **References**

*Discrepancies in how studies obtained data limits continuity related to differences in sex and gender as it relates to statistics about women referenced in this report.*

- 
- <sup>i</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/sexual-and-gender-based-violence.html>
- <sup>ii</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/sexual-and-gender-based-violence.html>
- <sup>iii</sup> <https://icjia.illinois.gov/researchhub/articles/an-examination-of-illinois-sexual-violence-victims>
- <sup>iv</sup> Because one individual may identify with multiple races, race percentages sum up to more than 100%.
- <sup>v</sup> <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/gender-equity-in-education.pdf>
- <sup>vi</sup> <https://commerce.gov/news/reports/2017/11/women-stem-2017-update>
- <sup>vii</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2018/04/23/how-our-education-system-undermines-gender-equity/>
- <sup>viii</sup> [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53f20d90e4b0b80451158d8c/t/54dcc1ece4b001c03e323448/1423753708557/AAPF\\_BlackGirlsMatterReport.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53f20d90e4b0b80451158d8c/t/54dcc1ece4b001c03e323448/1423753708557/AAPF_BlackGirlsMatterReport.pdf)
- <sup>ix</sup> <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/women-now-make-up-the-majority-of-the-college-educated-workforce-but-men-are-still-paid-more-2019-06-20>
- <sup>x</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2019/08/08/473379/fast-facts-economic-security-women-families-illinois/>
- <sup>xi</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2019/08/08/473379/fast-facts-economic-security-women-families-illinois/>
- <sup>xii</sup> [https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/07/19100938/2017ECFS\\_IL.pdf](https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/07/19100938/2017ECFS_IL.pdf)
- <sup>xiii</sup> [https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/07/19100938/2017ECFS\\_IL.pdf](https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/07/19100938/2017ECFS_IL.pdf)
- <sup>xiv</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2018/11/20/461273/womens-leadership-gap-2/>
- <sup>xv</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.htm>
- <sup>xvi</sup> <https://fortune.com/2019/05/16/fortune-500-female-ceos/>
- <sup>xvii</sup> <https://www.axios.com/fortune-500-no-women-of-color-ceos-3d42619c-967b-47d2-b94c-659527b22ee3.html>
- <sup>xviii</sup> <https://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/women-us-congress-2019>
- <sup>xix</sup> <http://www.ncsl.org/blog/2018/11/08/female-candidates-win-in-historic-numbers.aspx>
- <sup>xx</sup> <https://cawp.rutgers.edu/women-statewide-elective-executive-office-2019>
- <sup>xxi</sup> <https://cawp.rutgers.edu/women-elective-office-2018>
- <sup>xxii</sup> <https://cawp.rutgers.edu/history-women-governors>
- <sup>xxiii</sup> <http://www.ncsl.org/legislators-staff/legislators/womens-legislative-network/women-in-state-legislatures-for-2019.aspx>
- <sup>xxiv</sup> <https://www.chicagobusiness.com/woman/chicagos-women-owned-businesses-are-lagging-survey-finds>
- <sup>xxv</sup> <https://www.chicagotribune.com/politics/ct-met-illinois-abortion-rights-law-governor-jb-pritzker-20190612-story.html>
- <sup>xxvi</sup> <https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/up-il.pdf>
- <sup>xxvii</sup> <https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/up-il.pdf>
- <sup>xxviii</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/infant\\_mortality\\_rates/infant\\_mortality.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/infant_mortality_rates/infant_mortality.htm)
- <sup>xxix</sup> <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/publicationsowhmaternalmorbiditymortalityreport112018.pdf>
- <sup>xxx</sup> <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/publicationsowhmaternalmorbiditymortalityreport112018.pdf>