

OFFICE OF THE IL LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
Illinois Council on Women and Girls
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
June 12th, 2019

A majority of current non-ex-officio members of the Council shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Ex-Officio				
Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton	x		
Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)	Ngoan Le (representing Grace Hou)			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Aging)	Selma D'Souza (representing Paula Basta)			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)	Pending			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Children & Family Services)	Pending			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Healthcare & Fam. Services)	Theresa Eagleson			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Pub. Health)	Ngozi Ezike			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)	Michael Kleinik			X
Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)	Pending			X
Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)	Nyle Robinson			X
Ex-Officio (Community College Board)	Brian Durham			X
Guest (non-member)				
Guest, Representative	Anna Moeller		x	
Guest, Senator	Jackie Collins			x
Guest	Amanda Basso	x		

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Guest	Sylvia Perez	x		
Guest	Kelly Fair	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.)	Vacant			x
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)				
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Aileen Kim	x		
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Kaethe 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		
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Dr. Vidhya Prakash	x		
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Monique Garcia	x		

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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 Collins			x
Rep. of Gov.'s Office				
Rep. of Gov.'s Office	Pending			x
Lt. Governor's Staff (non-members)				
N/A	Charles Watkins			x
N/A	Teresa Reyes	x		
N/A	Dartesia Pitts	x		
N/A	Robert Mannis	x		
N/A	Emily Harwell	x		
N/A	Amada Fitzsimmons	x		
N/A	Jose Sanchez-Molina	x		
N/A	Lynsey Johnson	x		

18 members present, 17 of which count towards quorum. Quorum determined.

1. Call to order

Lt. Governor Stratton made the call to order at 5:35 PM on June 12th, 2019

2. Lt. Governor Stratton's Remarks

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We are here today to identify ways to help women and girls in Illinois by shaping policy and practice to reduce the systemic barriers around their safety, economic and social opportunities, and much more.

This morning, the *Reproductive Health Act* was signed, a bill that our legislators passed thanks in large part to the many women stepping up to share their stories and add their voices to the ongoing debate around reproductive health in Illinois and across the nation. Congresswoman Anna Moeller who helped push this legislation through and helped push the legislation making this this council possible is on the phone; thank you for all your hard work!

This Council, by convening all of us, is a great way to cultivate and grasp the wisdom that is found in the room. Our conversations and stories are valuable in pushing the issues into the forefront the issue areas that we focus on through our work. You all in this room are the experts and so we want everyone here to shape where we are going and how we get there – through legislation, cultural shifts, power shifts, empowerment, and more.

I am here to facilitate this Council's robust and real conversation; not to just say that we have a Council, but to use this Council to develop actionable plans for making Illinois a better state for our women and girls, and then implementing these plans.

3. New Business

Lt. Governor Stratton: Today, we will discuss how to best structure the Council's committees. We will be looking at the internal structure of the Council, our goals, and the survey results from the meeting (in March to understand what girls and women in every age group care about).

Lt. Governor Stratton: Before we discuss this Council's structure, let us go around the room to briefly discuss the issue areas that folks are most passionate about as it relates to women and girl issues:

- Rochelle – veterans
- Amina – financial independence
- Sylvia – teen girls
- Jennifer – leadership
- Nikita – young girls' education
- Drella – social justice violence
- Brandy – LGBT issues
- Vidhya – medicine, leadership
- Monique – leadership and inclusion for women of color
- Rhonda – violence
- Ines – gender-based violence
- Amanda – equality in the workplace
- Maria – leadership and inclusion
- Candace – disabilities
- Veronica – immigrants
- Wendy – economic stability
- Kaethe – sexual violence, LGBT issues, racism
- Thesera – disabilities
- Aileen – reproductive rights
- Kelly – education and leadership

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- Teresa – inclusion
- Emily – economic equity
- Lynsey – women’s health
- Amada – disabilities
- Jose – equity as power
- Bobby – sexual violence
- Dartesia – leadership

Lt. Governor Stratton: Thank you everyone for sharing. Now we will discuss the Council’s structure. My staff handed out a document explaining the structure we’re interested in having for committees. If you haven’t already looked this over, please do so now as we’ll love to get feedback from folks regarding this proposed structure and suggestions for ways to improve the recommended structure so that we can come to something we all agree on.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND COUNCIL GOALS

Committee framework:

Comment: Women veterans are a part of every issue, but they might need to have their own committee to ensure that they are not left out

Comment: There’s not a committee for LGBT issues (it might fall in inclusion), but they should be called out

Question: What does inclusion mean?

Answer: including women in all sectors, such as civic participation and their equity in leadership

Comment: We should focus on children from military families and their education and transitions between schools (which might fit into health), as well as underserved communities like the homeless (which might fit into economic opportunity)

Comment (LG): We can talk about any substantive issue, which we can add based on nearly anything. This discussion is about the structure – do you like committees? Liaisons?

Comment: Built into the structure of the committees is the ability to bring together the different committees, so we should provide time to allow for intersection of issues

Comment: The committee structure is good, but we must consider what makes the council as effective as possible through the committee structure. Research and data, a legislative arm, and programmatic efforts are three ways that we can be effective and impactful

Comment (LG): We should establish mission statements and goals for each committee, which will allow us to provide a more systematic way of going about organizing. The committees can develop this statement and we will review it as a Council.

Question: Some committees might have more working groups than others. Should every group need to provide 5 recommendations?

Answer (LG): We know that there are so many things that we can do; we want to target concrete ways that we can move forward instead of focusing on quantity. We should prioritize select and targeted

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recommendations from each committee over a huge list the merely meets quantitative metrics. The same recommendations can also come from different committees.

Question: Are we coming together as a council to hear the recommendations? Or do they go straight to the LG or the legislature?

Answer: This is still being worked out, but the report is viewed by the general assembly on New Year's Eve; the Lt. Governor's staff will write a draft for the December meeting that can be reviewed and then the cohesive nature of that report can be ensured.

Comment: Cohesiveness is also relevant when speaking about how issues are related and intertwined; the chairpersons of groups should be speaking so that we aren't being redundant and making sure our data is consistent.

Comment (LG): How do we communicate so that we aren't duplicating efforts? The chairs of each committee can meet and ensure that we aren't duplicating information. We can also define our committees to understand what terms like inclusion mean, and thus ensuring that issues that aren't explicitly identified can still be thought about. Members can sit on as many committees as they desire, but we should stay focused and we should be cognizant of our time and our effectiveness. We should identify the responsibilities of the chair to make sure that's clear. The committees should meet three times before the end of the calendar year. We should understand what the working groups are going to be doing, so we need to define those terms, especially who is brought in and what the working groups' roles are

Question: Will the committees be balanced geographically?

Answer (LG): We want to be inclusive, especially geographically, so that we prioritize everyone in the state and each community knows they are valued and heard. We are going to make sure that everyone is heard.

Answer: The working groups will bring in stakeholders and others who represent everyone, especially those from communities who are underrepresented on the council. The guidelines for these people will be outlined by the Lt. Governor's staff.

Question: Does the LG's office have access to videoconferencing?

Answer: We do have access to it, but the conferencing might be just to Springfield. We do have access to WebX, which everyone can access.

COMMITTEE JOINING AND ISSUE BRAINSTORMING

Lt. Governor Stratton: It is perfectly okay to say that we need to create new committees; we're not limited to the committees that are already recommended.

- Comment: Vulnerable populations should be prioritized
- Comment: Housing might be its own committee as well as it's very important, but it could also probably fit into economic opportunity
- Comment: Breaking the three committees into additional sub-committees is good for visibility that ensures each issue area is specifically addressed

Lt. Governor Stratton: based on the conversation from today, the proposed new committees concern veterans, LGBTQ communities, and people with disabilities. These are great ideas. We can consider starting with the original four committees, but we should specifically identify that each committee needs to acknowledge the issues pertaining to veterans, LGBT communities, and people who are disabled

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Comment: Some of the finer points regarding veterans, LGBTQ communities, and people who are disabled won't be captured by these committees. Defining these as their own committees give these specific issues a better chance for legislation

Comment: However, it might be hard to do this as it'll make the Council too big

Lt. Governor Stratton: There is no template for this Council. We are new, we should add voices, and we do have to include more voices. As such, I see that there are two potential motions on the table: the first is that we create three new committees to address veteran, LGBTQ, and disability issues; the second option is that of maintaining the original four committees with acknowledgement in those committees of the veteran, LGBTQ, and disabled communities

MOTION: separate committees to add veterans, LGBT, disabilities (Rochelle)

SECOND: yes

VOTE: 5 yes, 13 no

THE MOTION FAILS

MOTION: Emphasize specific groups within each committee to make sure they are included in the base committees

SECOND: yes

VOTE: 1 no, the rest are yes

THE MOTION PASSES

Lt. Governor Stratton: We should make sure that the voices who were advocating for extra committees (i.e. Rochelle, Teresa, Brandi) are helping in laying out the working groups so that their qualms are addressed and heard in the larger committees

Lt. Governor Stratton: My staff will share everyone's contact information among the entire Council for easy communication moving forward. The next step is for councilmembers to think about which committees they would like to work on. Once you inform my staff of your decisions, they will create a list of who is on each committee. We have six months to come up with our first recommendations for this Council to hone in on as it relates to women and girls

Lt. Governor Stratton thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts and their attendance at this meeting.

4. Member Updates and Reports

No requests for member updated were made.

5. Public Comment

No requests for public comments were made.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn until September 18, 2019 raised and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM