

Progress For Connecticut Women

Special 35th Anniversary Edition
Building to a Better Tomorrow



Highlights of the Accomplishments of the
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

Continuing

An Act Creating the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) was created in 1973 by an act of the Connecticut General Assembly. Under Sections 46a-1 through 46a-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes, a thirteen-member Commission is appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Commissioners, staff and volunteers work with elected officials and the public to eliminate sex discrimination in Connecticut.

Co-Chairs of the Judiciary committee and ranking minority members also serve on the Commission.

*The Commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women and in furtherance of that responsibility shall;

- (a) Inform leaders of business, education, state and local government and the communications media of the nature and scope of the problem of sex discrimination, with a view to enlisting their support in working toward improvement;
- (b) Serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women;
- (c) Promote consideration of qualified women for all levels of government positions;
- (d) Oversee coordination and assess programs and practices in all state agencies as they affect women.

C.S.G. Sec. 46a-4

**Excerpt from Section 46a, Chapter 812 of the Connecticut General Statutes.*

"To accomplish its statutory obligation, the Commission had to challenge the status quo over and over again. It had to ask unpopular questions and raise everyone's consciousness about inequality."

Governor Ella T. Grasso, 1977

"...The PCSW has been critical to the progress women have made in Connecticut...Its ability to work effectively with the elected representatives of both parties, has enabled it to serve women magnificently. They have worked in areas that have significantly touched the lives of women."

Congresswoman Nancy L. Johnson,
Sixth District, 1984

"By working hard at its mission of providing leadership and information to policy-makers and the public, and bringing citizen energies to its goal of improving the status of the female half of the state, [the PCSW] has provided an example of the wise investment of money and time to those of us in other states."

Gloria Steinem, 2003

A Letter from Our Executive Director

This year, 2008, marks the 35th year that the PCSW has been working on behalf of women's equality. We were established in 1973 to "study all matters affecting women" and have done so over the years with many successes. We've helped to change legislation and state policies and practices as it relates to discrimination against women and their families.

Along with many state leaders and partners we have recommended, led, staffed and supported many committees and task forces resulting in a better life for women in Connecticut. This edition of Continuing Progress is a special one for us. It's a time to look back and reflect on our history and retool for the future.

Help us celebrate the year. Check our website (www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw) for activities and events to commemorate our 35th anniversary and we invite you to share in them with us.

Best Wishes,
Teresa Younger
Executive Director

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
The State's leading force for women's equality

Commission Members and Staff 1973-2008

1973

Commissioners

Minerva H. Neiditz, Chair
Representative E. Ronald Bard, Vice Chair
Dorothy Kimball, Secretary
Suzanne S. Taylor, Treasurer
Ruth Church
Judge Lillian E. Erb
Barbara Lifton
Kathleen O'Leary McGuire
Ellen Peters
Beth Rawles
George Ritter
Craig Shea
Elizabeth Spalding
Ann Spencer Menousek
Janet M. Wildman
Chase Going Woodhouse

Legislative Members

Senator Thomas G. Carruthers
Senator Wilbur Smith

Staff

Kay V. Bergin, Executive Director

1974

Commissioners

Ann Spencer Menousek, Chair
Ruth Church, Vice Chair
Dorothy Kimball, Secretary
Thomas I. Emerson (*replaced Ellen Peters*)
Barbara Lifton
Kathleen O'Leary McGuire
Minerva H. Neiditz
Helen Z. Pearl (*replaced Janet M. Wildman*)
Ellen Peters (*term expired June 1974*)
Beth Rawles
Craig Shea
Elizabeth Spalding
Suzanne S. Taylor
Janet M. Wildman
Chase Going Woodhouse

Legislative Members

Senator Florence Finney
Senator Betty Hudson
Representative Margaret Morton
Representative Christopher Shays

Staff

Kay V. Bergin, Executive Director
Linda Pennington, Administrative Assistant
Joan Geetter, Public Information Officer
(*resigned October 1974*)
Donna Donovan Lewis, Public Information Officer
Rona Wilensky, Research Associate
Joanne Pitt, Bookkeeper/Clerk

1975

Commissioners

Ruth Church, Chair
Beth Rawles, Vice Chair
Dorothy Kimball, Secretary
Elizabeth Spalding, Treasurer
Thomas I. Emerson
Mary Erlanger
Barbara Lifton
Minerva Neiditz
Suzanne S. Taylor
Kathleen O'Leary McGuire
Helen Z. Pearl
Shirley Raissi Bysiewicz
Chase Going Woodhouse

Legislative Members

Senator Florence Finney
Senator Betty Hudson
Representative Margaret Morton
Representative Christopher Shays

Staff

Susan Bucknell, Executive Director
Fredrica Gray, Public Information and Research Officer
Vivian Bailey, Administrative Assistant
Linda Poltorak, Executive Secretary
Jeanne Hagstrom, Secretary

1976

Commissioners

Ruth Church, Chair
Beth Rawles, Vice Chair
Dorothy Kimball, Secretary
Elizabeth Spalding, Treasurer
Thomas I. Emerson
Mary Erlanger
Lucy Johnson
Barbara Lifton
Minerva Neiditz
Kathleen O'Leary McGuire
Helen Z. Pearl
Shirley Raissi Bysiewicz
Doris Roldan
Chase Going Woodhouse

Legislative Members

Senator Florence Finney
Senator Betty Hudson
Representative Margaret Morton
Representative Christopher Shays

Staff

Susan Bucknell, Executive Director
Fredrica Gray, Research Analyst
Vivian Bailey, Administrative Assistant
Linda Poltorak, Executive Secretary
Jean Hagstrom, Secretary

Please note that even though we have thirteen appointed Commissioners as required by statute, due to mid-year resignations, retirements, and term expirations, the number of Commissioners listed will vary.

1977

Commissioners

Beth Rawles, Chair
Ruth S. Church, Vice Chair
Dorothy Kimball, Secretary
Kathleen O'Leary McGuire, Treasurer
Shirley Raissi Bysiewicz
Thomas I. Emerson
Mary Erlanger
Lucy Johnson
Barbara Lifton
Minderva H. Neiditz
Flora Parisky
Helen Z. Pearl
Doris Roldan
Chase Going Woodhouse

Legislative Members

Senator Betty Hudson
Senator Nancy Johnson
Representative Margaret Morton
Representative Charles Matties

Staff

Susan Bucknell, Executive Director
Fredrica Gray, Research Analyst
Linda A. Poltorak, Office Administrator
Jeanne Hagstrom, Secretary
Elba Cabrera, Receptionist/Typist

1978

Commissioners

Shirley Raissi Bysiewicz, Chair
Lucy Johnson, Vice Chair
Dorothy Kimball, Secretary
Helen Z. Pearl, Treasurer
Ruth S. Church
Thomas I. Emerson
Mary Erlanger
Barbara Lifton
Minerva H. Neiditz
Flora Parisky
Beth Rawles
Doris Roldan
Chase Going Woodhouse

Legislative Members

Senator Betty Hudson
Senator Nancy Johnson
Representative Margaret Morton
Representative Charles Matties

Staff

Susan Bucknell, Executive Director
Fredrica Gray, Research Analyst
Linda A. Poltorak, Office Administrator
Jeanne Hagstrom, Secretary
Elba Cabrera, Receptionist/Typist
Elvira Canora, Typist

1979

Commissioners

Lucy Johnson, Chair
Flora Parisky, Vice Chair
Mary F. Johnston, Secretary
Helen Z. Pearl, Treasurer
Diane Alverio
Dorothy Billington
Shirley Raissi Bysiewicz
Thomas I. Emerson
Mary Erlanger
Barbara Lifton
Minerva H. Neiditz
Lorraine W. Vozzo
Chase Going Woodhouse

Legislative Members

Senator Salvatore DePiano
Senator Russell C. Lee Post, Jr.
Representative Richard A. Tulisano
Representative John A. Berman

Staff

Susan Bucknell, Executive Director
Fredrica Gray, Research Analyst
Jeanne Milstein, Research Assistant
Linda A. Poltorak, Office Administrator
Jeanne Hagstrom, Secretary
Elba Cabrera, Receptionist/Typist
Magdaliz Baez, Receptionist/Typist
Elvira Canora, Typist

1980

Commissioners

Flora Parisky, Chair
Thomas I. Emerson, Vice Chair
Mary F. Johnston, Secretary
Helen Z. Pearl, Treasurer
Dorothy Billington
Lucy Johnson
Lois Lirtzman
Carmen L. Lopez
Merrilee Milstein
Cheryl A. Rodriguez
Wendy Susco
Lorraine W. Vozzo

Legislative Members

Senator Howard Owens
Senator Alfred Santaniello
Representative Richard D. Tulisano
Representative Edward C. Krawiecki

Staff

Susan Bucknell, Executive Director
Fredrica Gray, Public Information Coordinator and Analyst
Jeanne Milstein Legislative and Research Analyst
Linda A. Poltorak, Complaints Assistant and Administrator
Magdaliz Baez, Receptionist/Typist
Jean Hagstrom, Part Time Secretary

1981

Commissioners

Wendy Susco, Chair
Helen Z. Pearl, Vice Chair
Dorothy Billington, Secretary
Mary F. Johnston, Treasurer
Tina Cunningham
Thomas I. Emerson
John Foley
Lois Lirtzman
Carmen L. Lopez
Merrilee Milstein
Flora Parisky
Cheryl Rodriguez
Lorraine W. Vozzo

Legislative Members

Senator Howard Owens
Senator Alfred Santaniello
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative Edward Krawiecki

Staff

Susan Bucknell, Executive Director
Fredrica Gray, Public Information Program Manger
Jeanne Milstein, Legialtive and Research Analyst
Linda A. Poltorak, Complaints Assistant and Office Administrator
Magdaliz Baez, Receptionist/Typist
Jean Hagstrom, Secretary

1982

Commissioners

Wendy Susco, Chair
Merrilee Milstein, Vice Chair
Dorothy Billington, Secretary
Mary F. Johnston, Treasurer
Tina Cunningham
Thomas I. Emerson
John Fole
Carmen Lopez
Flora Parisky
Helen Z. Pearl
Cheryl Rodriguez
Ann Smith
Lorraine W. Vozzo

Legislative Members

Senator Howard Owens
Senator Alfred Santaniello
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative Edward Krawiecki

Staff

Susan Bucknell, Executive Director
Fredrica Gray Simmons, Public Information Officer and Project
Manager
Jeanne Milstein, Legislative and Research Analyst
Linda A. Poltorak, Complaints Assistant and Office Manager
Magdaliz Baez, Receptionist/Typist
Jean Hagstrom, Secretary

1983

Commissioners

Tina Cunningham, Chair
Patricia Russo, Vice Chair
Ann Smith, Secretary
Thomas I. Emerson, Treasurer
Nicholas Carbone
Marilyn Ford
Irma Garcia
Mary Johnston
Merrilee Milstein
Geraldine Roberts
Lorraine W. Vozzo
Leslie White

Legislative Members

Senator Howard Owens
Senator Thomas Scott
Representative Antonina Parker
Representative Richard Tulisano

Staff

Susan Bucknell, Executive Director
Fredrica Gray, Public Information Officer and
Program Manager
Jeanne Milstein, Legislative and Research Analyst
Linda A. Poltorak, Office Manager and
Complaints Assistant
Magdaliz Baez, Receptionist/Typist
Jeanne Hagstrom, Secretary

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Glenda Boyd, Apprenticeship Coordinator
Jackie Slamon, Recruitment Specialist

1984

Commissioners

Tina Cunningham, Chair
Patricia Russo, Vice Chair
Mary Johnston, Secretary
Geraldine Roberts, Treasurer
Nicholas Carbone
Thomas I. Emerson
Irene Favreau
Irma Garcia
Alice Liebson
Merrilee Milstein
Lorraine W. Vozzo
Leslie White

Legislative Members

Senator Anthony V. Avallone
Senator Richard Johnston
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative William L. Wollenberg

Staff

Susan Bucknell, Executive Director
Fredrica Gray, Public Information Program Manager
Jeanne Milstein, Legislative Coordinator
Linda Poltorak, Office Administrator
Magdaliz Baez, Senior Secretary

1985

Commissioners

Patricia Russo, Chair
Geraldine Roberts, Vice Chair
Mary Johnston, Secretary
Alice Liebson, Treasurer
Nicholas Carbone
Tina Cunningham
Thomas I. Emerson
Deanna R. Jackson
Sarah E. McGirr
Merrilee Milstein
Antonia B. Parker
Lorraine W. Vozzo
Mary Moers Wenig

Legislative Members

Senator Anthony V. Avallone
Senator Richard Johnston
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative William L. Wollenberg

Staff

Fredrica Gray, Executive Director
Janet Kniffin, Grants Developer and Coordinator
Jeanne Milstein, Legislative Coordinator
Linda Poltorak, Office Administrator
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director

1986

Commissioners

Patricia Russo, Chair
Geraldine Roberts, Vice Chair
Mary Johnston, Secretary
Alice Liebson, Treasurer
Lillie B. Crosby
Constance Dice
Thomas I. Emerson
Patricia T. Hendel
Mary Carol MacKenzie
Sarah E. McGirr
Antonia B. Parker
Lorraine W. Vozzo
Mary Moers Wenig

Legislative Members

Senator Anthony V. Avallone
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative William L. Wollenberg

Staff

Fredrica K. Gray, Executive Director
Catherine Blinder, Public Information Officer
Janet Kniffin, Grants Coordinator
Gail K. Hamm, Legislative Coordinator
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Carmen Diaz, Administrative Assistant

1987

Commissioners

Geraldine Roberts, Chair
Mary Johnston, Vice Chair
Alice Liebson, Secretary
Constance Dice, Treasurer
Lillie B. Crosby
Thomas I. Emerson
Patricia T. Hendel
Mary Carol MacKenzie
Sarah E. McGirr
Patricia Russo
Mary Moers Wenig
Lorraine W. Vozzo

Legislative Members

Senator Anthony V. Avallone
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative William L. Wollenberg

Staff

Fredrica K. Gray, Executive Director
Catherine Blinder, Public Information Officer
Janet Kniffin, Grants Coordinator
Gail Hamm, Legislative Coordinator
Carmen Diaz, Office Administrator
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Barbara Burr Johnson, Secretary/Receptionist

1988

Commissioners

Geraldine Roberts, Chair
Alice Liebson, Vice Chair
Constance Dice, Secretary
Patricia T. Hendel, Treasurer
Madelyn Colon
Eden Girardeau
Mary Carol MacKenzie
Sarah E. McGirr
Ruth L. Pulda
Patricia Russo
Carolyn Stewart
Mary Moers Wenig

Legislative Members

Senator Anthony V. Avallone
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative William L. Wollenberg

Staff

Fredrica K. Gray, Executive Director
Catherine Blinder, Public Information Officer
Janet Kniffin, Grants Coordinator
Gail Hamm, Legislative Coordinator
Carmen Diaz, Office Administrator
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Barbara Burr Johnson, Secretary/Receptionist
Dawn P. Allen, Administrative Assistant

1989

Commissioners

Alice Liebson, Chair
Constance Dice, Vice Chair
Ruth L. Pulda, Secretary
Edna Girardeau, Treasurer
Madelyn Colon
Patricia T. Hendel
James Lindgren
Mary Carol MacKenzie
Sarah E. McGirr
Geraldine Roberts
Patricia Russo
Carolyn Stewart
Mary Moers Wenig

Legislative Members

Senator Anthony V. Avallone
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative William L. Wollenberg

Staff

Fredrica Gray, Executive Director
Catherine Blinder, Public Information Officer
Janet Kniffin, Special Projects and Grants Coordinator
Gail K. Hamm, Legislative Coordinator
Carmen Diaz, Office Administrator
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Barbara Burr Johnson, Receptionist/Secretary
Dawn Allen, Secretary

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Paula Patterson, Project Coordinator
Martha Boyer, Project Assistant
Karen Fellows, Project Assistant
Althea Drummond, Project Assistant
Julie Overeynder, Public Information Assistant
Ceila Robbins, Public Information Assistant

1990

Commissioners

Constance Dice, Chair
Patricia T. Hendel, Vice Chair
Ruth L. Pulda, Secretary
Sara E. McGirr, Treasurer
Madeline Colon
Edna Girardeau
Alice Liebson
James Lindgren
Mary Carol MacKenzie
Geraldine Roberts
Patricia Russo
George Schatzki
Carolyn Stewart
Kate Stith
Mary Moers Wenig

Legislative Members

Senator Anthony V. Avallone
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative William L. Wollenberg

Staff

Frederica Gray, Executive Director
Catherine Blinder, Public Information Officer
Janet Kniffin, Special Projects and Grants Coordinator
Gail K. Hamm, Legislative Director
Carmen Diaz, Office Administrator
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Barbra Burr Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Dawn P. Allen, Administrative Assistant

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Paula Patterson, Project Coordinator
Martha Boyer, Project Assistant
Audrey Levine, Project Assistant
Bobbie Emery, Project Assistant

1991

Commissioners

Patricia T. Hendel, Chair
Patricia Russo, Vice Chair
Ruth L. Pulda, Secretary
Edna Girardeau, Treasurer
Constance Dice
Alice Liebson
Sarah E. McGirr
Geraldine Roberts
Maureen Satti
George Schatzki
Geraldine Springer
Carolyn Stewart
Kate Stith
Barbara Tarbox

Legislative Members

Senator Anthony V. Avallone
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative William L. Wollenberg

Staff

Frederica Gray, Executive Director
Catherine Blinder, Public Information Officer
Janet Kniffin, Special Projects and Grants Coordinator
Charles Cleary, Office Administrator
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Dawn Allen, Administrative Assistant

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Paula Patterson, Project Coordinator
Bobbie Emery, Project Assistant

1992

Commissioners

Patricia T. Hendel, Chair
Patricia Russo, Vice Chair
Ruth L. Pulda, Secretary
Maureen Satti, Treasurer
Constance Dice
Edna Girardeau
Sarah E. McGirr
Geraldine Roberts
George Schatzki
Geraldine Springer
Carolyn Stewart
Kate Stith
Barbara Tarbox

Legislative Members

Senator Anthony V. Avallone
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Richard Tulisano
Representative William L. Wollenberg

Staff

Frederica Gray, Executive Director
Catherine Blinder, Public Information Officer
Janet Kniffin, Special Projects and Grants Coordinator
Charles Cleary, Office Administrator
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Barbara Burr Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Paula Patterson, Project Coordinator
Arlane Podeszwa, Project Assistant

1993

Commissioners

Ruth L. Pulda, Chair
George Schatzki, Vice Chair
Sarah E. McGirr, Secretary
Maureen Sattie, Treasurer
Edna Girardeau
Patricia T. Hendel
Geraldine Roberts
Rosaida Morales Rosario
Patricia Russo
Ann Sheffer
Carmen Sierra
Geraldine Springer
Kate Stith

Legislative Members

Senator George Jepson
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Dale Radcliffe
Representative Richard Tulisano

Staff

Frederica Gray, Executive Director
Catherine Blinder, Public Information Officer
Janet Kniffin, Special Projects and Grants Coordinator
Charles Cleary, Office Administrator
Barbara Burr Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Paula Patterson, Project Coordinator
Arlane Podeszwa, Project Assistant

1994

Commissioners

Ruth L. Pulda, Chair
George Schatzki, Vice Chair
Geraldine Brown-Springer, Secretary
Sarah E. McGirr, Treasurer
Molly Cole
Edna Girardeau
Patricia T. Hendel
Ruth L. Pulda
Geraldine Roberts
Rosaida Morales Rosario
Patricia Russo
Maureen Satti
Carmen Sierra
Kate Stith

Legislative Members

Senator George Jepson
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Dale Radcliffe
Representative Richard Tulisano

Staff

Patricia Yosha, Interim Executive Director (*January - June*)
Leslie J. Brett, Executive Director
Susan Hoover, Special Projects Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Charles Cleary, Office Manager
Barbara Burr Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Linda Frye, Administrative Assistant
Ann Carroll, Legislative Liaison (*during the legislative session*)

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Sharon Ibrahim, Coordinator

1995

Commissioners

Sarah E. McGirr, Chair
Patricia Russo, Vice Chair
Rosaida Morales Rosario, Secretary
Carmen Sierra, Treasurer
Molly Cole
Barbara W. DeBaptiste
Patricia T. Hendel
Edna Girardeau
Anya O. Park
Ruth L. Pulda
Geraldine Roberts
Maureen Satti
George Schatzki
Kate Stith

Legislative Members

Senator Martin Looney
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Michael Lawlor
Representative Dale Radcliffe

Staff

Leslie J. Brett, Executive Director
Susan Hoover, Special Projects Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Charles Cleary, Office Manager
Barbara Burr Johnson, Part Time Administrative Assistant
Linda Frye, Administrative Assistant
Lynn Thibodeau, Administrative Assistant
Evelyn Mantilla, Legislative Liason (*during the legislative session*)

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Christine Haddock, Coordinator
Tami Schweikert, Conference Coordinator

1996

Commissioners

Sarah E. McGirr, Chair
Patricia Russo, Vice Chair
Rosaida Morales Rosario, Secretary
Carmen Sierra, Treasurer
Molly Cole
Barbara W. DeBaptiste
Karen L. Giblin
Jann-Marie Halvorsen
Patricia T. Hendel
Anya O. Park
Ruth L. Pulda
Geraldine Roberts
Maureen Satti
George Schatzki
Cindy R. Slane

Legislative Members

Senator Martin Looney
Senator Thomas F. Upson
Representative Michael Lawlor
Representative Dale Radcliffe

Staff

Leslie J. Brett, Executive Director
Susan Hoover, Special Projects Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Charles Cleary, Office Manager
Barbara Burr Johnson, Part Time Administrative Assistant
Lynn Thibodeau, Administrative Assistant

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Christine Haddock, Coordinator
Signe Martin, Project Assistant
Gail Cain, Grant Coordinator

1997

Commissioners

Patricia Russo, Chair
Barbara W. DeBaptiste, Vice Chair
Carmen Sierra, Secretary
Cindy R. Slane, Treasurer
Ann Clark
Anne R. Fornabi
Karen L. Giblin
Jann-Marie Halvorsen
Patricia T. Hendel
Sarah E. McGirr
Anya O. Park
Ruth L. Pulda
Rosaida Morales Rosario
George Schatzki

Legislative Members

Senator Thomas F. Upson
Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr.
Representative Robert Farr
Representative Michael P. Lawlor

Staff

Leslie J. Brett, Executive Director
Susan H. Hoover, Special Projects Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Charles Cleary, Office Manager
Lillie Wright, Administrative Assistant
Lynn Thibodeau, Legislative Secretary
Rosemary Lopez, Legislative Secretary

Grant Funded Staff

Christine Haddock, Coordinator
Jill Ripington, Project Assistant
Gail Cain, Grant Coordinator

1998

Commissioners

Barbara W. DeBaptiste, Chair
Cindy R. Slane, Vice Chair
Ann Clark, Secretary
Jann-Marie Halvorsen, Treasurer
Marcia A. Cavanaugh
Anne R. Fornabi
Karen L. Giblin
Patricia T. Hendel
Sarah E. McGirr
Tanya Meck
Rosaida Morales Rosario
Ruth L. Pulda
Patricia Russo
George Schatzki
Carmen I. Sierra

Legislative Members

Senator Thomas F. Upson
Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr.
Representative Robert Farr
Representative Michael P. Lawlor

Staff

Leslie J. Brett, Executive Director
Susan H. Hoover, Special Projects Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Rosemary Lopez, Legislative Secretary
Lillie Wright, Administrative Assistant
Colleen Auletta, Legislative Secretary

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Christine Haddock, Project Coordinator
Jill Ripington, Project Assistant
Gail Cain, Program Manager
Gretchen Raffa, Program Assistant

1999

Commissioners

Barbara W. DeBaptiste, Chair
Cindy R. Slane, Vice Chair
Ann Clark, Secretary
Jann-Marie Halvorsen, Treasurer
Marcia A. Cavanaugh
Anne R. Fornabi
Karen L. Giblin
Patricia T. Hendel
Sarah E. McGirr
Tanya Meck
Rosaida Morales Rosario
George Schatzki
Carmen I. Sierra

Legislative Members

Senator Thomas F. Upson
Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr.
Representative Robert Farr
Representative Michael P. Lawlor

Staff

Leslie J. Brett, Executive Director
Susan H. Hoover, Special Projects Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Lillie Wright, Administrative Assistant
Rosemary Lopez, Legislative Secretary
Colleen Auletta, Legislative Secretary

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Jacquelyn Slamon, Program Manager
Sara Levy, Program Assistant
Jazzlyn Mills, Program Assistant

2000

Commissioners

Cindy R. Slane, Chair
Jann-Marie Halvorsen, Vice Chair
Tanya Meck, Secretary
Ann M. Clark, Treasurer
Marcia A. Cavanaugh
Anne Dailey
Karen L. Giblin
Sarah E. McGirr
Susan O. Storey, Esq.
Barbara W. DeBaptiste
Rosaida Morales-Rosario
Anne R. Fornabi
Patricia T. Hendel
Carmen I. Sierra
Holly Abery-Wetstone, Esq.

Legislative Members

Senator Thomas F. Upson
Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr.
Representative Michael P. Lawlor
Representative Robert Farr

Staff

Leslie J. Brett, Executive Director
Susan H. Hoover, Special Projects Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
Natasha M. Pierre, Legislative Analyst
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Lillie Wright, Administrative Assistant
Rosemary Lopez, Legislative Secretary
Colleen Auletta, Legislative Secretary
Donna Andrasi, Temporary Legislative Secretary

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women Program
Jacquelyn Slamon, Program Manager
Jazzlyn Mills, Program Assistant

2001

Commissioners

Tanya Meck, Chair
Susan O. Storey, Vice Chair
Ann Clark, Secretary
Anne Dailey, Treasurer
Mildred Bauza
Marcia A. Cavanaugh
Barbara W. DeBaptiste
Patricia T. Hendel
Sarah E. McGirr
Jean Rexford
Robin L. Sheppard
Cindy R. Slane
Patricia E. M. Whitcombe

Legislative Members

Senator John A. Kissel
Senator Andrew J. McDonald
Representative Robert Farr
Representative Michael P. Lawlor

Staff

Leslie J. Brett, Executive Director
Susan H. Hoover, Special Projects Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
Natasha M. Pierre, Legislative Analyst
Magdaliz Baez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Rosemary Lopez, Legislative Secretary
Lillie Wright, Administrative Assistant
Sarah Grabill, Legislative Secretary

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women Program
Jackie Slamon, Program Manager
Jazzlyn Mills, Program Assistant

2002

Commissioners

Tanya Meck, Chair
Susan O. Storey, Vice Chair
Ann Clark, Secretary
Anne Dailey, Treasurer
Mildred Bauza
Marcia A. Cavanaugh
Barbara W. DeBaptiste
Patricia T. Hendel
Sarah E. McGirr
Jean Rexford
Robin L. Sheppard
Cindy R. Slane
Patricia E. M. Whitcombe

Legislative Members

Senator John A. Kissel
Senator Andrew J. McDonald
Representative Robert Farr
Representative Michael P. Lawlor

Staff

Leslie J. Brett, Executive Director
Susan H. Hoover, Special Projects Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
Natasha M. Pierre, Legislative Analyst
Rosemary Lopez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Lillie Wright, Administrative Assistant
Sarah Grabill, Legislative Secretary

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women Program
Jackie Slamon, Program Manager

2003

Commissioners

Tanya Meck, Chair
Susan O. Storey, Vice Chair
Ann Clark, Secretary
Anne Dailey, Treasurer
Marcia A. Cavanaugh
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Susan H. Hoover, Special Projects Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
Natasha M. Pierre, Associate Legislative Analyst
Rosemary Lopez, Secretary to the Executive Director
Lillie Wright, Senior Administrative Assistant

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Nontraditional Employment for Women
Jackie Slamon, Program Coordinator
Doreen Fredette, Program Assistant

2004

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Nontraditional Employment for Women
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Doreen Fredette, Training Coordinator

2005

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Rosemary Lopez, Administrative Resources Coordinator
Lillie Wright, Senior Administrative Assistant (*on leave*)
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Michelle Noehren, Legislative Assistant
Carole Stambo, Temporary Senior Administrative Assistant

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Nontraditional Employment for Women
Doreen Fredette, Program Manager
Jeanne D. Miner, Program Assistant

2006

Commissioners

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Lisa Sementilli, Policy & Special Projects Director
Rosemary Lopez, Administrative Resources Coordinator
Christa M. Homola, Legislative Secretary
Michelle Noehren, Legislative Assistant
Carole Stambo, Temporary Senior Administrative Assistant

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Nontraditional Employment for Women
Doreen Fredette, Program Manager
Jeanne D. Miner, Program Assistant

2007

Commissioners

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Tanya Meck
Cindy R. Slane
Susan O. Storey
Patricia E.M. Whitcombe
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Legislative Members

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Barbara Potopowitz, Public Information Officer
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Lisa P. Sementilli, Policy & Special Projects Director
Rosemary Lopez, Administrative Resources Coordinator
Christa Allard, Administrative Assistant
Michelle Noehren, Legislative Assistant
Lisa Smith-Overton, Project/Staff Assistant

Grant Funded Staff

Nontraditional Employment for Women
Doreen Fredette, Program Manager
Jeanne D. Miner, Program Assistant

2008

Commissioners

Jean L. Rexford, Chair
Adrienne Farrar Houel, Vice Chair
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Carrie Gallagher, Secretary
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Barbara W. DeBaptiste
Tanya Meck
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Susan O. Storey
Patricia E.M. Whitcombe
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Legislative Members

Senator Andrew J. McDonald
Senator John A. Kissel
Representative Michael P. Lawlor
Representative Arthur J. O'Neill

Staff

Teresa C. Younger, Executive Director
Barbara Potopowitz, Communications Director
Natasha M. Pierre, Legislative Director
Lisa P. Sementilli, Research & Policy Director
Doreen Fredette, Project Coordinator
Rosemary Lopez, Administrative Resources Coordinator
Christa Allard, Communications Assistant
Michelle Noehren, Legislative & Outreach Associate
Jeanne D. Miner, Project Assistant
Lisa Smith-Overton, Project/Events Assistant

- 1973
- ✓ The CT General Assembly passes, and Governor Thomas Meskill signs into law, Public Act 73-559, establishing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.
 - ✓ The same year, the General Assembly enacts a law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status in credit transactions.
-
- 1974
- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 5778, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status in public accommodations;
 - HB 5622, requiring all state agencies, boards and commissions to develop affirmative action plans; and
 - A state equal rights amendment.
 - ✓ The PCSW conducts a major study for the purpose of making the language in the Connecticut General Statutes gender-neutral.
-
- 1975
- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 1655, establishing the Office of Child Day Care.
 - ✓ The PCSW establishes a Family Law Task Force.
-
- 1976
- ✓ The PCSW begins work with the State Personnel Department and the State Police to improve the recruitment and retention of women in the State Police.
 - ✓ The Family Law Task Force of the Commission recommends research on the state's marital property statutes.
-
- 1977
- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 8014, changing the state's "loitering statute" to allow Connecticut women to stand in bars; and
 - SB 302, which includes domestic workers under the state minimum wage law.
 - ✓ The PCSW conducts an investigation into the problems of women employed in clerical positions.

- ✓ The PCSW works with the Connecticut Task Force on Abused Women in support of legislation that establishes a pilot program of emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence.
 - ✓ The first edition of *Women's Job Rights and How to Use Them* is published.
-

1978

- ✓ The PCSW publishes:
 - *Great Women in Connecticut History*, and
 - *Clerical Work: A Manual for Change*.
 - ✓ The PCSW works with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and the Department of Labor to develop regulations that bring Connecticut into compliance with new federal laws requiring affirmative action for women in apprenticeships.
 - ✓ The PCSW begins work toward the establishment of Displaced Homemaker programs.
-

1979

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 7272, allowing pregnant workers in hazardous jobs to transfer to a non-hazardous job for the duration of the pregnancy.
 - ✓ The PCSW begins to explore the concept of "equal pay for work of comparable worth." The General Assembly requires an objective job evaluation study of state service jobs.
 - ✓ The PCSW publishes its first study of divorce in Connecticut: *Marital Dissolution: The Economic Impact in Connecticut on Men and Women*.
 - ✓ The PCSW works to establish a vocational training program at Niantic Correctional Institution for women in nontraditional occupations.
-

1980

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - sSB 251, defining and prohibiting sexual harassment under the state's Unfair Employment Practices Act.
- ✓ The PCSW establishes a Minority Women's Task Force to focus on the particular problems of women confronting the double impact of race and sex discrimination.

- ✓ The PCSW conducts a survey of 200 employers and unions and finds that 66% of the respondents indicate an interest in business-based child-care.
 - ✓ *Nontraditional Jobs for Women: A Resource Guide for Connecticut Women and Career Counselors* is published.
-

1981

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - SB 524, extending tax credits to businesses for the establishment of child-care for their employees; and
 - SB 1185, defining discrimination on the basis of pregnancy to include discrimination-related to child-bearing capacity, sterilization, fertility, or related medical conditions.
 - ✓ The PCSW, the Office of Child Day Care and the Department of Economic Development hold the first conference on industry-based child-care in Connecticut.
 - ✓ The PCSW, in conjunction with the state Department of Labor, is successful in the implementation of pre-apprenticeship training programs.
-

1982

- ✓ Special Act 82-41 establishes a committee to study employment and training opportunities for recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The PCSW guides the work for this committee.
 - ✓ The PCSW publishes *Out of Poverty*, a report recommending a state initiative to expand employment and training opportunities for recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children.
 - ✓ The PCSW completes a technical assistance project to increase the number of women in apprenticeships. More than 100 names of women are added to the Labor Department roster of persons interested in becoming apprentices.
 - ✓ The PCSW provides technical assistance to the City of Hartford and other personnel departments to recruit women for the position of firefighter. Two women enter the academy, complete training, and become the first female municipal firefighters in the state.
-

1983

- ✓ The PCSW serves on the committee established by the legislature to develop recommendations concerning education, training and employment opportunities for applicants and recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

- ✓ The PCSW becomes the Secretariat for the Child Support Enforcement Task Force.
- ✓ The PCSW develops a Talent Bank of qualified women interested in service on state Boards, Councils and Commissions.

1984

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - SB 76, in an effort to allow recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) to be self-sufficient; and
 - SB 411, creating a plan for AFDC participant referrals.
- ✓ *Crossing Bridges: A Guide for Displaced Homemakers and Other Women in Transition* is published, listing resources for displaced homemakers and other women in need.
- ✓ The PCSW sponsors a conference for police and fire chiefs and publishes the manual *How to Recruit and Retain Women Police Officers and Firefighters*.
- ✓ The PCSW publishes *Opening New Doors for Women: A Step by Step Guide to Recruiting and Retaining Women for Nontraditional Jobs*.
- ✓ The PCSW publishes *Facts about the Status of Connecticut Women*, which is pursuant to Public Act 84-14, An Act Concerning the Distribution of Information of Job Sharing for State Employees and Teachers.

1985

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - SB 119, creating a statewide coordinator of services for displaced homemakers; and
 - SB 244, establishing a committee to study the Uniform Marital Property Act.
- ✓ The PCSW begins to organize efforts on behalf of the state's female veterans; as a result, the Women's Veterans Task Force (WVTF) is formed.

1986

- ✓ The PCSW sponsors the first New England Conference on Women and Disability.
- ✓ The PCSW publishes the second edition of *Great Women in Connecticut History*.

- ✓ The PCSW works with legislative leadership on the development of a Family and Workplace Agenda. This initiative is among the first in the nation.
- ✓ The PCSW and the State Department of Education collaborate on and release, *A Status Report: Achieving Sex Equity in Schools*.

1987

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - SB 413, permitting state employees to take family and medical leave.
- ✓ The PCSW, in coalition with the Commission on the Status of Hartford Women, the Institute for Community Research, the Hispanic Health Council, and the Connecticut Black Women's Education and Research Foundation, develops a proposal for funding of the Urban Women's Development Project. The project will train inner city women in computer skills, information collection, and policy formulation.
- ✓ The PCSW researches and plans an exhibit of over 150 items representing the history of Connecticut women, as principal sponsor of the Connecticut Women's History Project.
- ✓ SAGE, the Committee for State Action on Gender Equity, is formed with the State Board of Education to assist in the achievement of equal educational opportunities regardless of gender.

1988

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - Legislative proposals contained in the family and work place package; sixteen of the seventeen are enacted into law; and
 - SB 318, establishing the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations, on which the PCSW serves.
- ✓ The PCSW staffs and serves on the task force to study the conditions of the Niantic Correctional Institution for Women.
- ✓ The PCSW conducts a survey of state Boards, Councils and Commissions to determine gender and race composition.

- ✓ The PCSW works with the Department of Transportation on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise/Women Business Enterprise certification panel to help ensure access for women and people of color to state-sponsored construction jobs.
- ✓ With grants from the Department of Labor and the Department of Education, the PCSW develops the Women in Nontraditional Occupations Project.

1989

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - SB 315, providing certain employees in the private sector with family and medical leave from employment.
- ✓ The PCSW releases several new publications:
 - *Why Not?*, a statewide directory of men and women who are employed in and willing to mentor in nontraditional occupations;
 - *Women in Apprenticeships*, a guide to apprenticeships for women in nontraditional occupations;
 - *Building a Strong Workplace: An Employers' Guide to Recruiting and Retaining Women in Nontraditional Occupations*;
 - *Connecticut Women's Organizations, A Directory*; and
 - *Women, Children and the Criminal Justice System*, a summary of findings and recommendations for the task force on women, children and the criminal justice system.

1990

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 5447, protecting a woman's reproductive rights and codifying the standards of *Roe v. Wade*.
- ✓ The PCSW publishes:
 - *Women and Children Beware: the Economic Consequences of Divorce in Connecticut*;
 - *24 Hour Help*: a statewide resource guide for emergency services; and
 - *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace*, a guide for identifying and dealing with sexual harassment.
- ✓ "Women in the Trades," the first conference for women in nontraditional occupations in Connecticut, is held.

- ✓ The Women in Nontraditional Occupations Project begins support groups for women in several cities and coordinates a community service project, building a playscape for a battered women's shelter.
 - ✓ The PCSW sponsors a forum on sexual assault with representatives from the advocacy and public policy arenas.
-

1991

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 5082, repealing the state's outdated adultery law.
 - ✓ The PCSW begins planning for a colloquium on sexual assault to be held in conjunction with the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, and starts an awareness campaign.
 - ✓ The PCSW joins with the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, Legal Aid Society of Hartford, and Parents for the Enforcement of Court Ordered Child Support in starting a public education campaign on child support enforcement.
 - ✓ A survey on women working in highway construction is conducted in cooperation with the Department of Transportation and the UCONN Center for Social Inquiry.
-

1992

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 5827, which requires employers with 50 or more employees to train supervisors about sexual harassment.
 - ✓ The PCSW participates in the Governor's task force on Sexual Violence, the Gender Bias and the Courts Implementation Task Force, and the Jobs Advisory Council.
 - ✓ The PCSW forms the Connecticut Women's Agenda to promote cooperation among leaders from many women's organizations.
 - ✓ The PCSW and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services convene a state task force on sexual assault.
-

- 1993
- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 638, requiring state boards, commissions, committees, and councils to make a good faith effort to ensure that representation reflects the gender and racial diversity of the state; and
 - sHB 6437, creating amendments to the sexual assault statutes, including the criminalization of sexual conduct between a therapist and a patient and the criteria for statutory rape.
 - ✓ The PCSW organizes a major conference, “American Women and Leadership: From Grassroots to Global,” as part of the celebration of its 20th anniversary.
 - ✓ The PCSW, along with the UCONN School of Social Work and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, conducts a survey of sexual harassment in Connecticut’s high schools.

-
- 1994
- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 6009, requiring employers to report new hires within 35 days of employment, identifying sooner parents responsible for supporting their children;
 - sHB 5548, requiring insurance companies to provide coverage for the removal of breast implants; and
 - sHB 5491, tasking the Department of Children and Families to develop teenage pregnancy prevention programs in cooperation with other agencies and organizations.
 - ✓ The PCSW develops a list of women qualified to fill vacancies on the federal bench for use by the Connecticut congressional delegation.
 - ✓ The PCSW convenes the Connecticut Women’s Health Campaign, which develops ten principles critical to quality of and equity in health care for women.
 - ✓ The PCSW facilitates the “Working Women Count” survey of the U.S. Department of Labor and Women’s Bureau to gather and analyze information about the issues affecting working women in America.
 - ✓ The PCSW plays an active role in the Commission on the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations. A new forensic evidence kit is developed along with procedures that will allow for effective prosecution and conviction.

1995

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - SB 204, allowing HMO participants to have direct access to obstetrician and gynecologist services;
 - SB 10, which allows professional, occupational or driver's licenses to be taken away from an obligor who is 90 days delinquent; and
 - SB 913, strengthening the current stalking law.
- ✓ The PCSW convenes the "Connecticut Women's Economic Summit" in Hartford with over 300 people in attendance to discuss the economic status of women in the state.
- ✓ The PCSW and the Order of Women Legislators (OWLS) co-sponsor a community forum called "Back from Beijing." Participants of the 4th United Nations Conference on Women and the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Forum in Huarou, China report their experiences.
- ✓ Along with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of women's right to vote, a voter registration drive is organized in collaboration with the Secretary of the State and in cooperation with many women's organizations. Over 1,000 new voters are registered.
- ✓ The Connecticut Women's Agenda prepares an analysis of the state budget and holds a press conference called "Making Women Visible: How The State Budget Affects Women in Connecticut."
- ✓ The PCSW, with the UCONN School of Social Work and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Centers publishes a report entitled, *In Our Own Backyard: Sexual Harassment in Connecticut's High Schools*.

1996

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - The Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection and Treatment Referral Program, increasing funding for early breast cancer prevention and treatment by providing underinsured women with free mammograms and pap tests; and
 - SB 330, requiring health insurance plans to cover a minimum hospital stay for post maternity care; forty-eight hours for normal childbirth and 96 hours for Cesarean section.
- ✓ The PCSW establishes advisory councils in each of the six Congressional Districts to increase awareness among the commissioners and staff on issues that affect the status of women in Connecticut.

- ✓ The PCSW begins filming the cable show “PCSW Presents...,” a half hour show designed to educate women around the state about the programs, legislation and other issues that affect their lives.
- ✓ The PCSW hosts “Take Our Daughters To Work Day” for hundreds of girls and boys, featuring many women legislators speaking about their personal experiences as elected officials.
- ✓ The PCSW and the CT Department of Labor are awarded a federal grant to develop a “best practices” training program to help women gain employment in the trades and other nontraditional occupations.

1997

- ✓ The PCSW provides analysis and research to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - SB 334, requiring insurance programs to provide coverage for a minimum of 48 hours following a mastectomy;
 - SB 260, providing that prohibition of public breast-feeding is a form of discrimination;
 - HB 6891, establishing a check-off box on the state income tax form through which individuals may voluntarily designate an extra contribution to the Breast Cancer Research and Education Account;
 - HB 6398, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender and other factors at golf country clubs;
 - SB 1121, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in public schools; and
 - HB 6839, facilitating the enforcement across state lines of restraining and protective orders in domestic violence situations.
- ✓ The PCSW organizes the Women’s Economic Development Initiative, a group consisting of experts, business owners and policy makers to focus attention on women and small businesses.
- ✓ With the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, the PCSW holds several forums focused on the issues of Latina women in the workplace.
- ✓ The PCSW conducts research with students from Yale about women with disabilities in New Haven who have experienced domestic violence. More than two-thirds of the respondents report some type of abuse.
- ✓ The PCSW partners with the Women’s Health Division of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to complete the successful pilot program entitled “Women’s Health—Take Time to Care,” aimed at fostering wise medicine-taking practices.

- ✓ The PCSW, in partnership with the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor and the Connecticut Department of Labor, implements Nontraditional Employment for Women initiatives throughout the state's employment and training services.

1998

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - SB 80, prohibiting employment discrimination based on the results of genetic testing;
 - SB 500, increasing the opportunities for welfare recipients and other workers to receive education and training combined with work; and
 - HB 5673, reforming and strengthening the procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.
- ✓ The Women's Economic Development Initiative project of the PCSW works with the Small Business Set-Aside program of the Department of Administrative Services to streamline the paperwork required for certification and increase opportunities for women business owners to do business with the state of Connecticut.
- ✓ The PCSW participates in the Girls and Technology Network to increase the number of girls who pursue education in technology.
- ✓ The PCSW unveils its new website, which provides immediate access to information regarding the Commission, facts, and policies affecting the status of women.

1999

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 5950, requiring health insurers to cover prescription birth control;
 - sHB 6816, establishing a micro-loan guarantee program for women-owned businesses and minority-owned businesses;
 - SB 1250, creating an Osteoporosis Education Awareness Advisory Council; and
 - SB 1162, extending unemployment compensation eligibility to domestic violence victims.

- ✓ The PCSW increases its outreach by publishing the brochures:
 - Who We Are and What We Do (in English and Spanish);
 - The PCSW Talent Bank;
 - The PCSW Internship Program; and
 - The Women's Economic Development Initiative,in addition to its regular publications.
- ✓ More than 250 women and employers attend the 10th annual "Women in the Trades and Nontraditional Occupations Conference."
- ✓ The PCSW conducts two seminars entitled "How to Be Appointed to State Boards and Commissions" and increases the Talent Bank of women interested in state boards and commissions to over 200 members.
- ✓ The Women's Economic Development Initiative of the PCSW sponsors the first "Connecticut Women Entrepreneurs' Day" to connect women business owners with state resources.
- ✓ The Nontraditional Employment for Women Project develops a training program to prepare women to enter state registered apprenticeships and other nontraditional occupations and graduates 26 women in its inaugural year.

2000

-
- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - sHB 5619, authorizing the government to study the costs and benefits of paid family and medical leave; and
 - HB 5322, increasing access to post-secondary education.
 - ✓ The Women's Economic Development Initiative of the PCSW works with the State Library Association to produce a video entitled *Starting and Growing A Small Business - Choices for Success*.
 - ✓ The PCSW partners with the Center for Policy Alternatives on *Women's Voices 2000*, a polling project which surveyed women and men about issues they felt were important during the election year.
 - ✓ The PCSW sponsors a research project with Yale students to learn how uninsured women meet their health care needs. Results show that these women would often postpone seeking medical care and do without prescription medications.
-

2001

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - sHB 6931, requiring compensation for education and equitable wages for early childhood education professionals;
 - HB 6709, requiring the state to provide medicaid coverage for all medical treatment to women who are diagnosed with cancer through the state's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program;
 - SB 325, requiring health insurance coverage for cancer clinical trials;
 - sHB 5656, requiring employers to provide a location for an employee to express breast milk in private; and
 - HB 6568, allowing for a statute of Prudence Crandall for the State Capitol Building, which failed, but the project continued to move forward without legislation.
- ✓ With the help of the PCSW, the first woman is appointed to the Connecticut Electrical Licensing Board.
- ✓ The sixth annual "Making Women Visible Day" and press conference is held jointly with the Connecticut Women's Agenda. PCSW announces a multi-year initiative to address the wage gap.
- ✓ The PCSW partners with the CT Valley Girl Scouts to sponsor a Teen Life Conference where more than 300 high school girls learn about computers, academics, financial aspects of entering college, and how to sustain healthy relationships.
- ✓ The Women's Economic Development Initiative project of the PCSW and the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners conduct a survey of women business owners relating to public policy issues. Health insurance, taxes, and the state's definition of small business are top issues.
- ✓ The PCSW conducts its first Public Hearing in New London regarding the economic status of workers in the caregiving professions.
- ✓ The PCSW receives the EPIC (Exemplary Public Interest Contribution) Award, recognizing the Nontraditional Employment for Women Program. The Award is presented by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance.

- 2002
- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - HB 5580, requiring the self-sufficiency measurement to be updated by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness every three years;
 - HB 5057, requiring an increase of the minimum wage to \$6.90 in 2003, and to \$7.10 in 2004;
 - sHB 564, requiring certain health insurance policies to cover an adopted child on the same basis as other dependents of an insured adoptive parent; and
 - sSB 334, making the violation of a restraining order in a domestic violence situation a class A misdemeanor, and the violation of a protective order a class D felony.

 - ✓ The PCSW conducts a statewide survey of women and men with the Center for Survey Research and Analysis at the University of Connecticut regarding policies and concerns that directly affect working parents and the status of women. One concern is reported to be the number of working parents.

 - ✓ *The Economic Status of Workers in Caregiving Professions* is published. This public hearing report captures the information and comments from workers, employers and members of the community who testified before the PCSW.

 - ✓ The PCSW provides comprehensive technical assistance and training to the Connecticut Department of Correction to help them address the issue of sexual harassment.

 - ✓ The PCSW appears before the Attorney General and the Office of Health Care Access in proceedings regarding the purchase of Sharon Hospital. Testimony is given regarding the access of women and reproductive health care services in the region, resulting in rulings which protect women's access to care.

 - ✓ The PCSW's Talent Bank has a total of 421 listings, and five of the women on the list receive appointments.

-
- 2003
- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - sSB 1152, requiring the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Mental Retardation to meet standards set by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology in regards to the provision of gynecological services for women with disabilities;
 - sSB 6464, banning smoking in workplaces with more than 10 employees;

- sSB 882, requiring ten hours of training for Affirmative Action Officers on the investigation of complaints of discrimination, to be provided by the CHRO and the PCSW;
 - SB 355, making assault that results in the termination of a pregnancy a class A felony; and
 - sHB 6600, requiring the Office of Workforce Competitiveness to consult the PCSW and establish a Career Ladder Advisory Committee that will work to create or enhance career ladder programs for occupations with a projected workforce shortage, such as early childhood education and health care.
-
- ✓ The PCSW sponsors the first College Women’s Leadership Forum at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The forum addresses issues important to college women, including body image, reproductive rights, pay equity, and employment opportunities.
 - ✓ The PCSW celebrates its 30th Anniversary.
 - ✓ The PCSW and the Connecticut Women’s Health Campaign publish its *Briefing Book*. Included for the first time are issues such as health insurance coverage, behavioral health, and reproductive rights.
 - ✓ The PCSW co-sponsors the forum “Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise: Securing Women’s Health, Pension, and Workplace Rights” with several federal agencies. At this two-day event, service providers exchange information regarding women’s health concerns. The PCSW is subsequently asked to summarize the proceedings of this meeting.
 - ✓ The PCSW, along with Representative Andrea Stillman, begins to explore the topic of labor and sex trafficking of women and children.
 - ✓ The PCSW establishes the Foundation for Connecticut Women to allow the PCSW to increase its educational outreach to leaders of business, education, and government regarding the status of women in Connecticut.
 - ✓ The PCSW participates in negotiating a Stipulated Agreement between the Department of Correction and female employees who allege sexual harassment. The federal court order requires the PCSW to hire a Sexual Harassment Consultant to assist the DOC for four years.

- 2004
- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - sHB 5657, making it a crime to maliciously and intentionally harass a person because of actual or perceived disability or gender identity or expression;
 - sHB 5296, establishing a source of funding for an organized community response to sexual assault, and
 - sHB 5366, establishing a plan of community-based services for adolescent females involved in the juvenile court system, including substance abuse treatment programs and mental health treatment.
 - ✓ The PCSW, along with Representative Andrea Stillman, prepares the final report of the Legislative Study Committee on Trafficking of Women and Children in Connecticut that recommends establishing an Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons. The Task Force begins its work in the fall and elects Senator-elect Andrea Stillman as chair.
 - ✓ The PCSW and the Connecticut Women’s Health Campaign publish the second edition of their briefing book, now titled *Briefing Papers on Women’s Health: February 2004*. It features the legislative agenda of the CWHC and highlighting information on specific health topics.
 - ✓ The PCSW co-chairs the Connecticut Career Ladder Advisory Committee, with the Office for Workforce Competitiveness. The committee submits its Three-Year Strategic Plan to the General Assembly.
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- 2005
- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - sSB 30, requiring certain health insurers to provide coverage for comprehensive ultrasound screening for breast cancer if a physician recommends the procedure;
 - sHB 6542, allowing for low-income adults to have increased access to family planning services;
 - sSB 508, expanding coverage for couples seeking medical treatment for infertility;
 - sSB 963, allowing two people of the same gender to enter into a civil union and be afforded all of the rights and benefits of civil marriage offered by the state of Connecticut; and
 - sHB 6228, increasing the minimum wage to \$7.40 effective January 1, 2006 and to \$7.65 effective January 1, 2007.
 - ✓ The PCSW provides staff support to the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, chaired by Senator Andrea Stillman. The Task Force produces a report with recommendations to strengthen state law enforcement and improve services to victims of trafficking in Connecticut.

- ✓ The PCSW works with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness to publish an updated report on *The Real Cost of Living in Connecticut, Connecticut's Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard*. The FESS study measures how much income a family of a certain composition in a given place requires to meet their basic needs, without public or private assistance.
- ✓ The PCSW is granted Intervenor Status before an Office of Health Care Access review of a request from Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London to close down their OB/GYN clinic for low-income women. Because of the issues raised by the PCSW and other advocates for women's health care, OHCA required the hospital to keep the clinic open and develop a new plan for providing services in the future.
- ✓ The PCSW helps organize in "Feminism and Values: An Intergenerational Dialogue and Awards Dinner" presented by the Veteran Feminists of Connecticut. The event honored the achievements of Connecticut veterans from the Second Wave of the Feminist movement.

2006

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - sSB 153, creating a criminal statute to categorize trafficking in persons as a class B felony under state law;
 - SB 702, defining what it means to be a micro business; and
 - sHB 5251, permitting the Office of Workforce Competitiveness to establish a pilot program giving parents access to training to develop skills they need to get and keep jobs.
- ✓ The PCSW releases *The Real Cost of Living and Getting Health Care in Connecticut: The Health Economic Sufficiency Standard for Connecticut*. The Health Economic Sufficiency Standard (HESS) measures the economic burden of health care and illness on Connecticut Families. This report is a result of collaboration with the Foundation for Connecticut Women, the Universal Health Care Foundation, the Connecticut Health Policy Project, and the Women's Union of Boston.
- ✓ The PCSW establishes the Young Women's Leadership Program, lead by members of the PCSW staff and other young women across different career fields and areas of expertise. It is the state's only group targeting women ages 18-35 that offers opportunity for leadership and legislative advocacy on issues pertinent to young women.

2007

- ✓ The PCSW provides research and analysis to the General Assembly which leads to the passage of:
 - sSB 1343, establishing a standard of care for hospitals providing emergency treatment to female rape victims;
 - SB 398, establishing a 26-member Trafficking in Persons Council chaired and convened by the PCSW. An evolution from the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, the group is tasked with determining what services are available to victims and how to best coordinate a response; and
 - sSB 1447, requiring towns, cities, school districts, fire districts, or associations to provide employees who have entered a civil union with federal FMLA benefits. It also adds civil union status as a protected class under anti-discrimination statutes.

- ✓ The PCSW and the Young Women’s Leadership Program collaborate with the Girl Scouts, the YWCA of the Hartford Region, SPIRA, Southern Connecticut State University and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy to bring over 200 young women to the Capitol and Legislative Office Building during the 14th annual PCSW “Making Women Visible Day.” Activities for the day focus on young women and includes workshops on body image, mentoring, and leadership.

- ✓ The Young Women’s Leadership Program announces the winners of its first essay contest for high school freshman. The two winners, who wrote about the importance of having female leaders, were recognized and awarded at “Making Women Visible Day.”

- ✓ The PCSW launches its new website design, providing Connecticut women an enhanced resource for information on topics such as civil rights, democracy, criminal justice, business development, education, economic security, pay equity and health, as well as general information about the PCSW.

- ✓ The PCSW begins circulation of its e-newsletter, which reaches women and advocates across the state and provides notification of recent and upcoming PCSW events and publications, and other topics of importance regarding PCSW’s work.

- ✓ The PCSW releases *Overlooked and Undercounted: Where Connecticut Stands*, a region by region analysis which identifies characteristics of Connecticut families with inadequate income.

- ✓ The PCSW releases a three-part women’s economic security package. It focuses on three areas: workforce development and education; business, economic and asset development; and income, work supports and good workplaces.

February 2008



the State's leading force for women's equality

Connecticut General Assembly
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
18-20 Trinity Street ■ Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860.240.8300 ■ Fax: 860.240.8314
pcsw@cga.ct.gov ■ www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw