

State of Connecticut

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PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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PCSW COMMISSION MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009 PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM 18-20 TRINITY STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06106

Present: Commissioners Susan O. Storey, Tanya Meck, Yvonne R. Davis, Barbara DeBaptiste, Carrie Gallagher, Jean L. Rexford, Cindy R. Slane (via phone), Cecilia J. Woods

Guest: Sudha Sankar

Staff Present: Teresa C. Younger, Lisa P. Sementilli, Emma Mullen, Natasha M. Pierre, and Rosemary López

Excused and/or Absent: Commissioners Adrienne Farrar Houël, Elizabeth Donohue, Melanie O'Brien, Denise Rodosevich, Patricia E.M. Whitcombe, Senator Andrew J. McDonald, Senator John A. Kissel, Representative Michael P. Lawlor and Representative Arthur J. O'Neill

Chairperson Susan O. Storey called the meeting to order on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 2:40 p.m.

Chairperson Storey welcomed Commissioner's Gallagher guest Sudha Sankar to the meeting.

Chairperson Storey invited Lisa P. Sementilli, Research Director, to give an update on the Elder Economic Standard Index.

Ms. Sementilli reported that PCSW was selected to be the lead agency to kick off the Elder Economic Standard Index and Initiative (EESI) in conjunction with Wilder Opportunities for Women (WOW) out of Washington, DC and the Connecticut Commission on Aging. Connecticut is the seventh state to officially launch the Initiative.

Emma Mullen, Public Allies Intern, helping Ms. Sementilli on this project reported on the key findings for Connecticut:

1. Connecticut older adults cannot meet their basic living expenses whether they live at the Federal Poverty Level or the level of the average Social Security benefit. This is true of elders statewide, whether they rent or own a home.
2. Housing costs (mortgage or rent, taxes, utilities and insurance) put a heavy burden on some elder households, representing as much as half of their total expenses.
3. The Index shows the significance of health care costs for Connecticut older adults who must purchase supplemental health and prescription drug coverage to Medicare.
4. Even older adults who are currently making ends meet face an uncertain future if their life circumstances change, such as loss of a spouse/partner or a decline in health status.
5. The need for home and community-based long-term care can more than double an elder's expenses, significantly increasing the income needed to meet basic needs.

PCSW will be engaging women advocates throughout the State in this 5-year initiative and will be taking the show to the road.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

Action Item # 04-09-01

Commissioner Rexford moved the approval of the minutes of the Thursday, December 4, 2008 Commission meeting. Commissioner Meck seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner DeBaptiste abstaining.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Storey announced that Commissioner Meck would be chairing the Nominating Committee and that Commissioner Gallagher and she would serve on the committee. Commissioner Meck announced that a memo will be sent via

email to all the commissioners requesting them to indicate interest in serving on the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the coming year at the May 7th meeting and the slate will be voted on at the June 4th meeting.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Teresa C. Younger, Executive Director, distributed copies of a comparison report between the Governor's Recommendations vs. Appropriations Committee Budget for FY 2010-2011. Further review of the document showed that PCSW and all legislative commissions had been budgeted for with 20% cuts. The current financial challenges of the state have meant that the PCSW has made several presentations before various committees of the General Assembly. She mentioned that although we are going through some current fiscal challenges, PCSW has not stopped or slow down our efforts.

Younger gave the following updates in addition to her written report. She:

- Distributed copies of Judge Beverly Hodgson report on the monitoring services she is providing for PCSW on the DOC for the commissioners to review and turn back in. Younger announced that Judge Hodgson will be at our next commission meeting and will give a full report at that time.
- Reported that we were invited by Senator Stillman to assist a group of female State Troopers with some concerns they had about hiring, promotion and career ladders issues with the Department of Public Safety (DPS). PCSW hosted a press conference with Sen. Stillman on March 24th where we outlined our concerns with the study DPS released and made some recommendations for moving forward. PCSW also coordinated that efforts and testified at an informational hearing before the Public Safety Committee.
- Announced that the Women's Directory had been updated with a different look and would be released to the public very soon.
- Shared that NAWBO-CT made a nearly \$10,000 contribution to PCSW, which was earmarked to underwrite the cost of a conference for Women Business Owners in July.
- Invited commissioners to save the date of April 28th to join us at an Intergenerational Pay Equity Coffeehouse at Cosi, in West Hartford from 6:30pm – 8 pm. We are encouraging young women to bring their mothers, aunts, and grandmothers and reverse.
- Shared that 501c3 portion of Love Makes a Family will be closing it's doors as of July 1st and function solely as a PAC after that. Distributed

copies of the PCSW Results Based Accountability report card on the status of Connecticut Women 2009 and the PCSW Performance Report Card 2009 for review and information.

REPORT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Natasha M. Pierre, Legislative Director, gave a brief legislative update on the bills that we have taken the lead on which includes the following:

S.B. 713, AAC Discriminatory Labor Practices and the Deadline for Filing Complaints. This bill would codify the *Ledbetter* decision. The bill failed to be voted out of committee even though the Labor Committee held a public hearing.

sH.B. 6189, AAC Reporting Statistics Based Upon Gender Wage Reports. This bill would require data collection on pay equity and hiring practices based upon gender. The bill was voted out of the Labor Committee and was on the House Calendar.

H.B. 6678, AAC Revisions to Department of Public Health Licensing Statutes. Section 9 of this bill would amend the Commission on Health Equity's statute to add "gender" as one of the areas to focus on when addressing health disparities. The bill had a public hearing in the Public Health Committee.

s.S.B. 362, AAC Equal Pay for Equal Work. This bill would require equal pay for equal work. Sen. Caligiuri introduced the bill and we have been working with him on it. We have also reconvened the Equal Pay Coalition and testified in support of the bill. This bill was voted out of the Labor Committee and was on the Senate Calendar.

Ms. Pierre is reviewing the budget that was just released this morning by the Democrats. She is going through the budget line by line and will do a complete analysis of the cuts made and their impact on women and their families.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Ms. Younger distributed and reviewed the budget with the commissioners for their information. Commissioner Rexford moved and seconded by Commissioner Meck to accept the budget and place it on file. The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the PCSW will be held on **Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.** at the PCSW Office in Hartford.

Adrienne Farrar Hoüel
Secretary

Rosemary López
Date Approved

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