



Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
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PCSW News—April 2007

April 2007

What you'll find...

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Nettie Roberts, NEW Program Graduate

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2007 Legislative Highlights Update

The PCSW provides information, research and analysis to elected officials and the public regarding issues affecting the status of women. The legislative session convened on January 3rd and adjourns June 6th. The PCSW has testified on over 85 bills before various committees of the General Assembly. Here's a quick update of a few of the bills and issues we are monitoring. For a complete list of our legislative priorities, [visit our website](#).

S.B. 940, An Act Concerning the Prevention and Response to Human Trafficking

For the past three years, the PCSW has had the privilege of serving on an interagency task force chaired by Sen. Andrea Stillman to study the incidence and consequences of human trafficking in Connecticut.

We have made a great deal of progress in Connecticut in learning about and addressing trafficking. Legislators, law enforcement personnel and community advocates and service providers have joined together to make sure that our laws are strong and that services are available to assist victims of this crime.

This bill is part two to the trafficking bill that passed last year which criminalized human trafficking. This year's bill is an important step forward because it would authorize funding for training and outreach to respond to victims of human trafficking and would establish a Trafficking in Persons Council.

Its path: SB 940 started in the Public Safety committee where it had a public hearing. PCSW testified in support of the bill as did many other members of the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons. It was then voted out of Public Safety and now is waiting in the Appropriations Committee to be voted to the floor of the senate.

To read the bill, visit <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/TOB/S/2007SB-00940-R01-SB.htm>

S.B. 1343, An Act Concerning Compassionate Care for Victims of Sexual Assault

At the PCSW, we have worked for many years to promote full access to comprehensive health care for women, and to protect the needs and rights of women who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. This bill is about these two important issues – health care and the rights of crime victims - nothing less and nothing more.

S.B. 1343 would require all licensed health care facilities that provide emergency treatment for victims of sexual assault to follow the standard of care and provide





In a recent class, tradeswomen offered the current NEW Program participants advice on what it is like to be a woman in the trades. Front: Nettie Roberts (Laborer), Juanita Chisolm (Ironworker). Back: Shon Missouri (Painter), Fiona Thomas (Plumber), Deborah Anderson (Laborer), Laura Martin (Electrician).

treatment for victims of sexual assault to follow the standard of care and provide medically and factually accurate information about emergency contraception and to dispense emergency contraception when requested by the victim. Six other states currently have similar requirements, including New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Providing this standard of care will ensure medical care and psychological relief to rape victims, which they deserve without question.

Its path: SB 1343 started in the Human Services Committee where it had a public hearing. PCSW testified in support of the bill as did many other advocates for women’s health care. It was then voted out of Human Services and has now found its way to the floor of the senate.

To read the bill, visit <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/FC/2007SB-01343-R000231-FC.htm>

Universal Health Care

The PCSW, through its Connecticut Women’s Health Campaign (CWHC), supports universal health coverage, and believes that coverage cannot be truly and completely universal without recognizing the special needs of women.

There are several legislative proposals which address universal health care in Connecticut. Some include expansions of private insurance purchasing pools, expansions of public insurance programs, and traditional private insurance eligibility expansions. States are debating such proposals at the same time as we face and aging society, rapidly changing health care technologies and no comprehensive federal health care reform. Connecticut’s proposals included SB 1, SB 3, HB 6693, HB 7314 and SB 1371. For more information, see www.cga.ct.gov or www.healthcare4every1.org.



NEW Program graduate Nettie Roberts with PCSW Executive Director Teresa Younger.

NEW Program a Continued Success

PCSW’s Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW) Program is now in it’s 9th year. This is the state’s only pre-apprenticeship training program for women. The program offers Connecticut women the opportunity to enter the building and construction trades to earn a higher wage. Below is an excerpt from testimony by Nettie Roberts, a 2004 graduate of the program. She recently spoke before the legislature’s Appropriation’s Committee in support of continued funding for the NEW program.

“Three years ago I was working a part time job in sales for a home improvement company making \$10 an hour or less than \$200 a week. During that time I received housing assistance and food aid. I had no driver’s license or car. Health insurance for me and my family was also provided by the state.

I applied to the PCSW’s Pre-Apprenticeship training program in 2004 when I was 32 years old. I always had an interest in the trades and loved working outside. I was accepted into the pre-apprenticeship program and showed a real aptitude for measurement and trade work. I graduated and became an apprentice with the New England Laborers’ union. I have been working full time at various construction projects ever since....”

[Read Nettie’s complete testimony here.](#)



Latest Publications Available!

2007 NEW Program participant
Rachael Otero practices
welding.



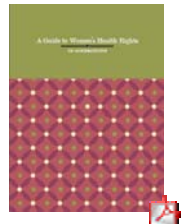
2005-2006 Annual Report

Selected Highlights of Women's History



Health Economic Sufficiency Standard (HESS)

Guide to Women's Health Rights in Connecticut



Upcoming Events

- April 13, 2007** **Reproductive Justice Networking Event**
Southern Connecticut State University
[Learn More](#)
- April 26, 2007 **Women in the Trades Exchange**
Universal Health Care Foundation, Meriden
[Learn More](#)
- April 29, 2007** **CARC Champaign Brunch featuring Gloria Steinem**
Hilton Hartford Hotel
[Learn More](#)
- May 2, 2007 **Small and Micro Enterprise Business Showcase**
Offered by the Micro Enterprise Resource Group (MERG)
State Capitol, Hartford
[Learn More](#)
- May 16, 2007** **NEW Training Program Graduation**
Location TBD—please check our [website](#) soon for details
- June 11, 2007-
June 13, 2007 **The 2007 Women's Business Conference & Expo**
"Business & You"
Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT
[Learn More](#)
- June 21, 2007** **Save the Date! Making Women Visible Dinner**
State Armory, Hartford
[Learn More](#)

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PCSW Staff Directory

**Following is a list of our staff and a sampling of their areas of responsibility.
Please feel free to contact us at any time.**

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The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) was established by the State Legislature in 1973. Seventeen appointed volunteer Commissioners join a staff and volunteers to work to eliminate sex discrimination in Connecticut. They are to inform leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, to serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, to promote consideration of women for governmental positions, and to work with state agencies to access programs and practices as they affect women.

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Christa Homola, Editor—christa.homola@cga.ct.gov

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