



Women's Council  
· Wisconsin ·

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Wisconsin Women's Council – September 7, 2016  
Wisconsin State Capitol, Rm 225NW, Madison, WI**

**Mary Jo, Chair**

**Board Members Present:** Cindy Block, Patty Cadorin, Karen Katz, Katie Mnuk, Jessie Nicholson, Kim Nickel, Carrie Richard, Senator Janis Ringhand and Jessica Ward.  
Not Present: Mary Jo Baas, Nicole Bowman, Senator Dave Hansen, and Michelle Mettner.

A quorum of Board members was present.

**Others present:** Christine Lidbury, Executive Director; and Carrie Molke, DHS, Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources.

The meeting was chaired by Patty Cadorin (Executive Committee). Mary Jo Baas extended her apologies but a family emergency prevented her from attending as planned.

The meeting was called to order at 11:36AM.

A quorum was not yet present. Approval of the Minutes was deferred to later in the meeting.

**Update on Council Programs and Activities** - Christine Lidbury, Executive Director.

A handout on Council activities since the June meeting, as well as upcoming programs, was provided. She highlighted several of the activities:

The Trailblazer Awards event was held on June 22, 2016 at the Capitol and was very well attended. Awards were presented by Governor Walker to each of the 14 recipients. A copy of the program and a group photo of the award recipients with the Governor were circulated. Christine recognized Patty Cadorin and BMO Harris Bank for their ongoing support of the event and the Board thanked her and BMO Harris Bank for again serving as Lead Corporate Sponsor.

The Women's Council also organized a local Trailblazer Award presentation at the request of the Campbellsport Chamber of Commerce, for Trailblazer Torchbearer Award recipient Ann Schlaefer of Schlaefer Optometrist. Held on August 10, 2016 at a meeting of the Campbellsport Chamber,, Lieutenant Governor Kleefisch gave remarks and made the award presentation before Ann's family, friends and co-workers, as well as local Chamber members.

Christine noted that the Trailblazer Awards have become the Council's signature ongoing event and would like to discuss, at a future meeting, how to better engage the board in the program.

Financial aid and student success offices at the UW and Technical College Systems were offered free copies of the Council's *Financial Tips for Women* brochure and *Top 10 MoneySavvy Tips* bookmark (both available in English and Spanish). Free materials are available to any government or non-profit organization. To-date the Council had requests for 6,000 pieces, with requests still coming in. Karen Katz was thanked for circulating the offer in Marathon County where there has been particularly strong response for materials.

October is Manufacturing Month and Women's Small Business Month. The Women's Council is taking part in events recognizing both. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the Western Dairyland Women's Business Center (Eau Claire) is hosting a celebratory luncheon. The Council helped in planning the main program and facilitated securing the Lieutenant Governor as the luncheon speaker. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Council and Hudson School District's Women in STEM program are co-hosting a Women and Manufacturing/STEM breakfast with Middle and High School girls, featuring Lieutenant Governor Kleefisch as keynote speaker, along with topic-related college and apprenticeship representatives and local women in industry.

The Women's Council was a member of the 2015-16 Child Support Advisory Committee. The Committee was established by the Department of Children and Families to provide guidance on revisions to state policy guidelines used to determine child support payments and the application of those guidelines in special circumstances relating to the child support percentage of income standard. The Department released a Statement of Scope and is now drafting the rule changes.

### **Report by Senator Janis Ringhand**

In August, Senator Ringhand attended the National Council of State Legislators (NCSL) Conversation on Human Trafficking and agreed to share information from that meeting.

Thirteen states participated in the meeting. Some of facts highlighted included:

- Truck stops and sporting events are major centers for trafficking activity
- African American and Native American women and girls are the most commonly trafficked victims, but no one is immune.
- Victims only trust their pimps; don't trust police and others.
- Believe they don't need help.
- Pimps use drugs and alcohol to create dependency and control.
- Most victims are running away from something.

She reported that there are a variety of initiatives to be found across states. One commonly cited is a focus on demand, e.g., target consumers (Johns) rather than victims, create higher fine and/or more serious legal charges (e.g., 4<sup>th</sup> offense is a felony), create "buyer education efforts" on enhanced consequences of soliciting children victimized by trafficking.

The government response to trafficking is fairly recent. The first Federal law – the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act – was passed in 2000. Some examples of anti-human trafficking efforts in other states:

- 2003 - Washington State was the first state to legislate to address human trafficking with a Safe Harbor program and provide training and education funds.
- June 2016 - New Hampshire law made it a felony to pay for sex with a minor.
- Minneapolis, MN, is one of 13 metro areas responding to human trafficking of minors, including a “No Wrong Door” policy to treat exploited youth as victims and survivors rather than offenders, and coordinate philosophies across government, criminal justice, health care, educational and community organizations.
- New Jersey is working with hotel and motel owners, landlords, and taxi drivers to hold them accountable as community partners and “people who know” and must report.
- Illinois has a 100 mile perimeter around Chicago, which includes Beloit. Illinois gets a lot of Wisconsin residents – pimps and victimized women and girls.

Senator Ringhand was asked what she thought would be the most useful role for the Council if it continued to work on trafficking. She indicated that public education and outreach were a top priority, noting that people remain unaware or uninformed about the issue and believe it doesn't affect them or their community. The Board thanked Senator Ringhand for the presentation.

A quorum of members was now present and took up passage of the minutes of prior board meetings.

- Motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2016 by Kim Nickel, second by Karen Katz. Approved unanimously.
- Motion to approve the minutes of June 1, 2016 by Cindy Block, second by Jessie Nicholson. Approved unanimously

**Presentation by Carrie Molke, Director, Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, WI Department of Health Services**

About caregivers (highlights):

- Many people who provide caregiving would benefit from available programs and services don't identify as caregivers or seek assistance (awareness and stigma issues).
- Caregiving is often cross-generational.
- 60% of caregivers are women
- 90% are unpaid for caregiving and their paid work is often affected and may impact earnings and productivity.
- One in 6 employees is a caregiving, making it an issue for employers.
- The value of uncompensated caregiving in the US is \$470B, which is not reimbursed through Medicare, Medicaid or other health insurance.
- Family Caregivers are 2.5 times more likely to live in poverty.

DHS is developing an outreach and awareness campaign targeted to caregivers and focused on stigma reduction and connection to services.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ARDCs) are available in all 72 Wisconsin counties and in the tribal communities. They operate with a “no wrong door” policy as a central source of reliable and objective information on a broad range of programs and services. There is also a Caregiver Coalition in every area of the state.

DHS is also engaged in the Dementia System Redesign Initiative focused on redesigning Wisconsin's approach to serving people with dementia and their caregivers. They are also promoting the benefits of dementia –friendly employers and offer the Dementia-Friendly Employer Toolkit.

Focus is on evidence-based caregiver support programs. One such program, Memory Care Connections, is an evidence-based caregiver support program that builds a network of help around the caregiver. Participation in the program has been proven to delay nursing home admissions by 18 months.

Caregiving is a national issue. Most states are looking at caregiving but no one has figured it out yet, giving Wisconsin a chance to lead.

### **December Board Meeting**

The Board discussed a proposal to extend the December Board meeting to 3 hours to allow for additional presentations and time for board discussion around issue prioritization. There was consensus that the extra hour be added to the beginning of the meeting. There was agreement that the December 7, 2016 meeting would be held from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

A suggestion was put forward to host the meeting in Milwaukee as an opportunity to get the Board out of Madison and in to a different environment, perhaps facilitating a refreshed mindset and also to make it more festive as the end-of-year meeting. Discussion ensued. It was noted that moving the meeting to Milwaukee or the Milwaukee-area considerably increased travel time and created logistical difficulties. There was a consensus that the meeting should be kept in Madison. Christine indicated that she would look at possibilities for alternative venues to meet.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments or announcements.

Motion to Adjourn. Moved Jessie Nichol; second, Cindy Block. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Lidbury