



Women's Council  
· Wisconsin ·

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Wisconsin Women's Council – June 7, 2017**

**Wisconsin State Capitol, Governor's  
Conference Room, Madison, WI**

**Mary Jo Baas, Chair**

**Board Members Present:** Mary Jo Baas, Cindy Block, Briana Buch, Patty Cadorin, Karen Katz, Kim Nickel, Michelle Mettner, Katie Mnuak, Jessie Nicholson and Senator Ringhand.

Also present: Christine Lidbury (Executive Director), Steve Baas (recognition program only).

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am. Board members expressed their appreciation to the Office of the Governor for use of the Room for today's meeting.
- 2. Approval of Minutes and Board Update.** Meeting minutes were not distributed in advance of the meeting, therefore voting was deferred to the next Council meeting.
- 3. Women and Caregiving: Caregiving-Friendly Employers program for the Trailblazer Awards Alumni Group.** Christine gave an update on the Trailblazer Alumni Group program scheduled for June 27, 2017 in Brookfield. At a prior meeting, the Board had discussed program ideas for an inaugural get-together, recommending combining the Council's work on women and caregiving with this high-level business group. The Council retained Independent Journalist Katherine Lewis Reynolds as the speaker. Discussion ensued.

Christine also shared statistics from the Family Caregiver Alliance ([www.caregiver.org](http://www.caregiver.org)):

- 15 to 20% of Americans working full- or part-time as estimated to provide informal caregiving to an adult family member, relative, or friend - a figure that is expected to rise over the next decade.
- 66% of caregiver employees have gone into work late, left early, or taken time off during the day to deal with caregiving issues.
- 20% of caregivers were forced to take a leave of absence from work.
- 10% of caregivers quit or take early retirement.

Women's Council members were encouraged to attend. Program information:

Katherine Reynolds Lewis

*Getting to win-win: supporting employee caregiving needs without hurting the bottom line. Best Practices from Leading U.S. Companies*

Tuesday, June 28, 2017, 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM  
Country Springs Hotel, Brookfield, WI

#### **4. Board Recognition Program.**

The Women's Council Board marked several Board service anniversaries.

5-years of service: Patty Cadorin, Karen Katz, Michelle Mettner and Kim Nickel. Christine handed out Women's Council 5-year Service Recognition certificates.

At Noon, Governor Scott Walker joined the Women's Council and talked about selected budget and policy issues, including the state's investment in high school apprenticeship programs and benefits for young people entering the workforce. The Council has a long history of working on issues related to women and skill-building apprenticeships.

Governor Walker congratulated Mary Jo Baas on her 25th anniversary and distinguished service history on the Women's Council Board, including serving twice as Board Chair. Governor Walker noted, in particular, her leadership on the important issue of financial literacy for women. He presented Ms. Baas with a Proclamation.

Council Members congratulated Ms. Baas, thanking and recognizing her leadership. The Board presented Mary Jo Baas with a gift commemorating this milestone and staff presented her with a framed Fun Facts poster highlighting her years of Board service.

#### **5. Reviewing the Council's work priorities for original research.**

Christine asked the Council to provide feedback on Council priorities for conducting research – from Fast Facts (individual statistics and one-page factsheets) to full-scale reports created both for the Council and for other partners (such as Women's Funds).

A PowerPoint handout was provided (attached).

Discussion ensued. Council members noted that most were not aware of the wide range of Council fact sheets and research publications. The Board made several recommendations on the Council's research agenda, no votes were taken.

- The Board asked Christine to distribute all research products to the Board, for information and distribution.
- It was the consensus of the Board that Christine evaluate reports for partner organizations on a case-by-case basis and to ensure they do not displace the Council's program of work

or overwhelm available staff time. Further, such requests could be brought to the Board and/or Executive Committee for consideration and direction.

- It was the consensus of the Board that the Council develop a regular reporting schedule for Factsheets so that they would be anticipated by users and have better distribution and use by partners and other stakeholders. Christine was asked to develop a plan to publish monthly or quarterly products.
- It was the consensus of the Board that the Council continue major periodic publications, such as women in elected office research and analyses of Census Bureau women's business ownership data, both on 5-year update schedules.

## **6. Program Updates**

### Beloit Caregiver Outreach and Education initiative

Christine updated the Council on the bus ads, which will run from April to September.

Christine also provided information on an upcoming program in Beloit, in partnership with the Beloit Senior Center. She was working with a reporter from the Janesville Gazette on an article to run the day before the event and is seeking an interview with a local talk-radio show.

Caregiving Discussion Panel & Community Dialogue  
Tuesday, July 11, 9:30 to 10:30 AM  
Grinnell House, 631 Bluff Street, Beloit

### Panelists

- Cori Marsh, Dementia Care Specialist, ADRC of Rock County (ADRC = Aging & Disability Resources Center)
- Julie Seeman, Family Caregiving Support and Outreach Specialist, Rock County Council on Aging
- Caregiver (TBD)
- Christine Lidbury, moderator

7. There were no announcements or public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM. Moved: Cindy Block; Second: Karen Katz. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Lidbury