



Women's Council
· Wisconsin ·

WOMENSCOUNCIL.WI.GOV

[DRAFT] Minutes of the Meeting of the
Wisconsin Women's Council - January 13, 2010

Board Members Participating: Kris Martinsek, Chair; Nicole Bowman; Sarah Briganti; Jane Clark; Mary Ann Gerrard; Representative Sandy Pasch; Dr. Joan Prince; Senator Judy Robson; and Representative Kelda Helen Roys. A quorum of Board members was present.

Others present: Christine Lidbury, Executive Director; Tony Gibart (Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence); Mike Murray (Office of Representative Parisi); Rachel Patterson (Office of Senator Hansen); Eric Peterson (Office of Senator Lena Taylor); and Adrienne Ramirez (Office of Representative Statskunas).

1. Discussion and Action on Legislative Proposals

Christine Lidbury provided an overview of the Women's Council's priority issue/work areas, as previously determined by the Board. These issue areas are: economic self-sufficiency; women's business ownership; safety from violence; access to affordable, high quality child care; women and mental health, with emphasis on stigma reduction around depression; and financial literacy. She noted that the proposals put forward through her office and the Legislative Committee were vetted with the Council's issue priorities as a guide.

Ms. Lidbury reported that the Council's Legislative Committee met on December 18, 2009. Recommendations made by the Legislative Committee were noted on the agenda for proposal. She also noted that each Board member was provided with additional detail for each piece of legislation prior to the meeting, including copies of the bills, fiscal estimates and positions from both supporters and opposition.

a. **AB 559 / SB 381 - aka "Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Procedure Act"** This bill creates a procedure to implement existing state law prohibiting possessing a firearm and requiring a person surrender any firearms in their possession when subject to a domestic abuse injunction, a child abuse injunction or other court order; and other provisions. [Motion \(Robson\) and Second \(Roys\) to endorse AB 559 and SB 381, also known as the "Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Procedure Act". Approved unanimously.](#)

b. **AB 558 / SB 380 - aka "Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Enforcement Act"** Federal law prohibits a person who is convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing a firearm. This bill creates a parallel state law and provides for penalties. [Motion \(Prince\) and Second \(Clark\) to endorse AB 558 and SB 380, also known as the "Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Enforcement". Approved unanimously.](#)

c. **AB 481 / SB 344 – aka "Wisconsin Gender Hate Crimes Act"** This bill adds *gender* to protected classes in the existing hate crimes statute, provides an enhanced penalty for certain crimes if the person committing the crime intentionally selects the victim based on his or her belief or perception of the victim's gender. [Motion \(Gerrard\) and Second \(Robson\) to endorse AB 481 and SB 344, also know as the "Wisconsin Gender Hate Crimes Act."](#) [Approved unanimously.](#)

Eric Peterson (Office of Senator Lena Taylor) answered questions on the Hate Crimes bill including that it provides additional tools to prosecutors for appropriate crimes. Mr. Peterson also noted that there have been concerns raised by constituent groups about the definition of gender and that we may expect to hear additional discussion on this topic in the future.

d. **AB 458 / SB 324 - Related to teen pregnancy prevention and school instructional curriculum.** This bill provides requirements related to providing "medically accurate information" and other provisions where a school board offers an instructional program in human growth and development. [Motion \(Gerrard\) and Second \(Roys\) to endorse AB 458 and SB 324. Approved unanimously.](#)

Discussion ensued on the supporting and opposing arguments for this proposal. Discussion emphasized the public health importance of addressing the "epidemics" among teens of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Discussion emphasized goals in the proposal to maintain primary focus on abstinence, provide "medically accurate information" and maintain existing local control of content and timing in delivery of curriculum.

e. **AB392 - related to predatory lending in Wisconsin.** The bill changes the licensing requirement so that it is based on the amount of a loan, rather than the finance charge. The bill also prohibits a lender licensed under the new requirements from assessing a finance charge on a consumer loan that exceeds 36 percent per year. [Motion \(Roys\) and Second \(Robson\) to endorse AB 362. Approved unanimously.](#)

f. **Child Care Quality Rating System.** The 2009-11 State Budget required the WI Dep. of Children and Families to return to the Joint Committee on Finance with a proposal for a Quality Rating and Improvement System. [Motion \(Pasch\) and Second \(Roys\) stating that the Women's Councils recognizes the need for and supports the pursuit of a Quality Rating and Improvement System for Child Care in Wisconsin to improve information available to parents, incentivize quality improvements among providers and ensure accountability for public funds. Further, the Board directs the Executive Director to participate in discussion and development of such a proposal. Approved unanimously.](#)

It was noted that if a QRIS proposal is brought forward, it will be a 1310 Action with Joint Finance Committee and not a full legislative proposal. Discussion ensued regarding the potential effect of such a system on low-income providers and children from low-income families and asked the Executive Director to report back to the Board as a proposal comes forward.

g. **AB 512 / SB 362 – aka "Wisconsin Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity Act"**

This bill requires all group health plans to provide mental health and substance abuse disorder coverage at the same level as medical and surgical coverage. [Motion \(Roy\) and Second \(Pasch\) to endorse AB 512 and SB 362, also know as the "Wisconsin Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity Act."](#) [Approved unanimously.](#)

h. **AB 480 / SB 337 – aka "Wisconsin Gender Violence Act"** This bill creates a civil cause of action for a person who suffers physical, emotional, or economic harm as a result of a gender-based act. [Motion \(Roy\) and Second \(Gerrard\) to endorse AB 480 and SB 337, also know as the "Wisconsin Gender Violence Act."](#) [Approved unanimously.](#)

2. Executive Director's Report

a. The Women's Council, in partnership with the Women's Bureau, US Department of Labor and the WI Department of Workforce Development, hosted the *Women, Jobs and Wisconsin's Green Economy Public Policy Roundtable*. The event was held in Madison on October 29, 2009. The event was a great success with more than 70 participants. A report of the meeting proceedings is posted on the Women's Council's web site.

b. The Women's Council is on the steering committee for the Wisconsin Girls Collaborative Project (WGCP) which is focused on providing exposure to science, technology, engineering and math program to girls in grades K-12. WGCP is part of the Great Lakes and National Girls Collaborative Projects. WGCP is in the process of giving out up to 18 community grants of \$1000 to support STEM projects for girls. The Women's Council co-chaired the fundraising committee to raise the grant funds. A kick-off conference was held in October 2009 in Wausau, WI.

c. Upcoming Event – Wisconsin Women's Health Policy Summit, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI - May 12, 2010. The event is coordinated by the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health. The Women's Council is a sponsor and planning committee member. Information will be available on our web site as the program develops.

3. Board Recognition. Several current board members were recognized for long-standing service. Board service is recognized for continuous service at 5-year service intervals. For Five Years Service.: Kris Martinsek, Chair; Jane Clark, Vice Chair; Renee Boldt; Nicole Bowman; Ann Peggs; Joan Prince, Governor's Designee; and Arlene Siss.

4. Other Council Administrative Business - None

5. Public Comments and Announcements - None

Meeting Adjourned: Motion (Bowman) and Second (Clark). Approved.