



WOMENSCOUNCIL.WI.GOV

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Wisconsin Women's Council – September 9, 2020**

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Patty Cadorin, Chair

Present: Patty Cadorin (Chair), Dr. Lisa Armaganian, Denise Gaumer Hutchison, Dr. Rosalyn McFarland, Nerissa Nelson, Carrie Richard, Shelby Schmuldach (a quorum was not present). Also Attending: Christine Lidbury (Executive Director), Diara Parker (EQT by design), and [Rebecca Cohen (Wisconsin Community Health Foundation)?]

1. Welcome by Chair

2. Approval of the Minutes of March 4 and June 3, 2020. Postponed for lack of a quorum

3. 19th Amendment Centennial Wrap-Up. Wisconsin's Centennial Celebration Planning Committee was established in 2019 by Executive Order. First Lady Kathy Evers served as chair and included all the women in state elected and appointed office, as well as a few women-serving organizations including the Council.

As part of the committee's work, I proposed a statewide portal to complement the Historical Society's pages and programs, around the state and offer a consolidated list of resources. The Council and created the stand-alone website womenvotewi.wi.gov.

In response to a request from the committee to add changing content and a desire to better engage committee members, the Council proposed the Women Who Inspire project. The project invited committee members to highlight and interview a Wisconsin woman from their community who inspired them. Women Who Inspire is a snapshot of women working today, across Wisconsin, to carry forward the ongoing work of social change and increasing parity for women and girls. These were published as feature stories on the website and maintained in an archive on the website. The result was eight featured women, ranging from Bayfield, to Stevens Point and Milwaukee.

Faced with COVID and not holding gatherings, an initiative was promoted to simultaneously ring bells at Noon on August 26th and share photos and videos. First Lady Evers invited the

women featured in the Women Who Inspire project to create an inspiring and promotional video. The Council provided each woman with one of the Historical Society's Suffrage Centennial commemorative bells to use in the video. Members were encouraged to view the video on the Women's Council website.

4. Budget Update and Proposal

a. FY 19-20 Budget Wrap-Up

Christine reported this information is from the past budget year and is to inform the board. This is for information only and there is nothing to do at this time

Mandated Budget Lapse: May 1st Governor Evers called for an immediate 5% reduction in state spending in response to the COVID pandemic, offering \$70M in savings statewide. Agencies were directed to make the 5% reduction in GPR (tax-funded) operating expenses by June 30. The Council budget is 100% GPR funded. This effects only the current fiscal year that end in a few weeks, on June 30, 2020.

- 5% cut for the Council would equal \$7,450.
- In addition, the Council received a \$1,800 assessment for a budget shortfall in benefit costs (not a result of Council budget estimates). This is said to be a one-time assessment.

While the Council's has only a \$14K annual program budget, due to program changes as a result of COVID-19, Christine worked with the DOA Budget Office and was able to identify \$4,000 in funds to available to apply to the reduction. The Department of Administration will make up the balance and is doing so, as well, for other small agencies unable to absorb the full reduction.

In response to questions, Christine confirmed that all outstanding expenses have been accounted for in the total.

b. Budget Proposal for the next Governor's Budget

State agencies are in planning for the next Biennial Budget for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. Agencies that wish to request new budget funds submit a new initiative-based Budget Request Proposal. The Council cannot request additional funds to make up for increased costs of state assessments, which is what has reduced available program funds for the Council.

Christine reported having talked with Denise and Patty about a budget proposal for an initiative to enhance capacity to incorporate diversity and inclusion issues across its programming. She put together a draft proposed at provided for \$18,000 each year of the biennium, to hire a .25 LTE project staff, or consultant(s), with specialized experience and expertise based in the issue and project scope. The intent is to be responsive to current and upcoming issues – COVID-19 and the aftermath make it more important than ever to be nimble and able to pivot as issues require or present – whether in the area of, for example, health, workforce, education or economic security.

particularly direct community and stakeholder engagement and incorporating lived-experience and lived-experience leadership into project development and implementation. A rough program budget was provided.

Initially, the draft request will go to the DOA Secretary where it gets a thumbs up or down on whether it is included in the DOA agency budget proposal to the Governor, or whether revisions are required. If the proposal dies at the DOA-level, I do not have recourse, but the Board can intervene and request the DOA Secretary move it forward. Christine suggested the board vote on the parameters of a budget proposal and the Council's support can be noted with the proposal submission.

As a quorum was not present. Christine suggested that a motion be offered, and the members present discuss and offer a sense of support, questions, or direction from those members.

Discussion ensued. It was suggested the amount be raised to \$19,500 per year, keeping it under 20K. Another suggestion was to increase it further to \$23K because an LTE 2 days/week is not sufficient and sufficient funds are needed to interpreters and bilingual staff.

The question was asked that if the request were made at \$23K, could we amend the submission to reduce the scope to lower the budget amount. Christine noted she was not sure as the process was not and she had not received comment on her concept paper.

The question was asked if the Council could vote by email if a motion was made today. Christine provided that voting can only occur as part of a noticed public meeting. However, the Board could hold a subsequent noticed meeting, even if it is a short meeting with only this item on the agenda. However, a quorum would still be required to register a vote or position.

It was suggested that a small work group be formed to review and create an effective proposal. The current board was polled to get a sense of the members present if they supported creating a working group. The idea was unanimously recommended. Denise, Lisa, and Nerissa volunteers to serve on the working group.

It was suggested that once a proposal is sent to the DOA Secretary that Christine ask the Council's legislative members to call or write the DOA Secretary in support of accepting the proposal to move on to the Governor's Office.

5. Healthy Hearts Survey & Virtual Focus Group(s): Update & Overview

Guest Presenter: Diara Parker, EQT By Design

Diara noted that the purpose of the update is focus on the change in methodology as a result of the COVID-19 shutdown and focus on how this impacts survey outreach and discuss draft outreach materials

Revised timeline: Survey will be online only, followed by an undetermined number of virtual focus groups. Survey distribution in June and July then move into focus groups in early August. Data will be analyzed and compiled in August and September to be presented by Annette Miller at the October symposium.

Completed materials: Partners Factsheet as requested by the Council to provide information and talking point to recruit prospective partner organizations. Invitation for prospective survey takers, with link to introductory video. The Survey questions were finalized this week.

Language options. Board members were asked if the survey and materials should be available in other languages, such as Spanish and Hmong. The Board agreed these two languages should be available. Diara will work with Christine on text for translations. Women's Council will cover the cost of translations.

Introductory video: Purpose is to add a personal connection in inviting people to take the survey, Rebecca recruited Dr, Lisa Armaganian (a cardiologist) to make the introductory video, with the link will be added to the Invitation. Not required for participants to take the survey but something added. Discussion about language options extended to the video project. It was requested that either a scroll in Spanish or Hmong appear beneath Dr. Armaganian's video or native speakers in each language record videos. Rebecca welcomed Council members to be in the video.

Target survey audience is adults with a current heart diagnosis or currently caregiver of someone with a diagnosis. Discussion ensued on the change from the original discussion of having the survey open to anyone with a connection to heart disease, such as risk factors, Rebecca provided that the smallness of the projected sample and the fixed limit on the number of questions required the target audience to be more focused.

Target sample size: Target is 50 to 100 people.

Diara noted that the survey will be in Survey Monkey and can be completed on phone, tablet, or computer, as well as in paper copy.

Concern was raised about the timeline since it is already the beginning of June and that there is still work to be done with translations and creating videos. Members were concerned about enough time to connect with partners and gain approval, which sometimes entails a potentially time-consuming process. Diara felt that everything could roll out as available within two weeks.

Board members asked a "how" section be added to the Partner Factsheet specifying what we are exactly asking of the organizational partners. Diara noted that this can vary – perhaps sending email out to their lists, distributing paper copies, sharing a list for us to send out. The issue was somewhat unresolved. Christine will work with Diara.

Christine will follow up with individual Board members about outreach.

6. Postponed to future meeting date.

7. Future Work Planning,

Christine suggested the topic of women's shifting work & family responsibilities in the COVID-19 response world, such as childcare, online learning, online work.

Christine discussed growing but fragmented concerns about the disproportionate impact on women in COVID-19 response arrangements. COVID-19 has transformed home life — turning kitchen tables into home offices and classrooms. Working women are managing jobs and expectations of professionalism while simultaneously minding children. Workplaces and ; businesses are opening up again, school have gone virtual leaving school-age children at home with few if any alternative. It is estimated that as many as 25% of licensed childcare centers ss

Should the Women's Council look at our next program of work to center on impact of COVID and/or what will women need to successfully navigate COVID and COVID-recovery.

Are Board Members interested in further exploring this potential topic with a special meeting to discuss. Issues and suggestions raised included:

- Insufficient resources to take on this topic and have impact.
- Too big a topic.
- Good for the Council to take the lead. Be the glue that holds this together and bring it to the forefront.

A poll of the members present had unanimous support for holding a special meeting to discuss further.

Public comment – none

Motion to adjourn by Dr. McFarland; Denise Gaumer Hutchison. Unanimous support.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Lidbury
Executive Director