



Women's Council
· Wisconsin ·

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wisconsin Women's Council

April 5, 2024; 1:00 – 3:00 PM

In-person at the [ADRC of Brown County](#) in Green Bay at 300 S. Adams Street, Room 138
and Virtually via MS Teams

Council Members Present:

x*	Sen. Melissa Agard	x	Dep. Sec. Patti Epstein	x*	Carrie Richard
ex.	Gabby Aranda-Pino	x*	Rachel Fernandez	x	Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez
x	Dr. Jolene Bowman	x	Denise Gaumer-Hutchison, <i>Chair</i>		<i>Vacant</i>
	Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara		Amanda Medina-Roddy, <i>Sec.</i>		<i>Vacant</i>
	Rep. Jodi Emerson	x	Nerissa Nelson, <i>Vice Chair</i>		<i>Vacant</i>

Staff Present: Jenifer Cole, WWC Executive Director; Jana Steinmetz, DOA-DEO Administrator; Richard Rydecki, DOA-DEO Deputy Administrator; Cara Connors, DOA Legislative Advisor; Rachel Roberson, Office of the Lt Governor; Lynn Welch, DWD-DET Communications Specialist; Madeliene Norton*, Office of Rep. Jodi Emerson

Public Present: Asst. Deputy Secretary Jennifer Garrett, DSPS; Jean Marsh; Irene Strobehn; Emily Jacobsen; Dotty Juengst; Amy Kox*; Jill Theide*; Cindy Gappa*

*Present online via Teams meeting

- 1) Call to Order & Opening Remarks:** Chair Gaumer Hutchison called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM and welcomed Council members, panelists, guests, and public attendees. She then introduced Green Bay Mayor Eric Genrich.
- 2) Introductory Remarks:** Mayor Genrich welcomed the Council and attendees to Green Bay and briefly spoke to the topic of the panel and roundtable about the importance of creating and expanding pathways for gender equity in all career and job types. He thanked the Council for holding its meeting in Green Bay and for including local and regional panelists and attendees at this important meeting.
- 3) National Poetry Month Recognition:** Vice Chair Nelson shared that April is *National Poetry Month* and April 18 is *Poem in Your Pocket Day*. She shared about efforts she is involved with to spread the joy of poetry and read two poems [insert titles and poets].
- 4) Introductions:** Council members, staff, guests, and public attendees in the room and online introduced themselves.
- 5) Approval of Meeting Minutes:** P. Epstein moved approval of the minutes from the December 1, 2023 and March 1, 2024 meetings. Seconded by J. Bowman. Minutes approved unanimously.
- 6) Panel on Women in the Trades, Labor, and Apprenticeship and Q&A:** Chair Gaumer Hutchison briefly introduced the panelists - Michele Carter, Division of Employment and Training Administrator with Department of Workforce

Development; Liz Pusch, Deputy Director of Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards with Department of Workforce Development; Emily Pritzkow, Executive Director with Wisconsin Building Trades Council; Christina Jungwirth, Apprenticeship Coordinator with Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; Marsha Nebel, Electrician with IBEW Local 158; and Kimberly Davister, Firefighter/Paramedic with IAFF Local 141. Each panelist shared more about their background and the paths they took in their careers and professions.

Chair Gaumer Hutchison moderated a series of questions for the panelists and panelists spoke about:

- The importance of attracting, engaging, and retaining women in the trades, labor, apprenticeship, and/or a non-traditional field.
- The percentages of women working in the different trades, registered with unions, and/or enrolled in apprenticeships and how the rates have improved somewhat.
- The barriers and challenges that women face in these fields and ways that the panelists' programs are working to address them.
- The ways in which the panelists are working to create awareness about these fields for young women and youth.

The panel concluded with a few questions from Council members and spoke to the need for workplaces to emphasize anti-harassment training and addressing toxic, inappropriate, and harmful workplace cultures. The discussion also noted that engaging women in the trades and apprenticeship needs a focus on promoting career pathways for younger girls, while focus is currently on youth ages 16-24.

7) Upcoming Events: J. Cole promoted the Council's upcoming Money Smart Wisconsin Week webinars on Monday, April 8 and Tuesday, April 9 and the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls' Day of Awareness on Tuesday, May 7.

8) Closing Remarks and Adjournment – Chair Gaumer Hutchison adjourned the meeting at 3:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jenifer Cole
Executive Director, Wisconsin Women's Council

Approved at May 17, 2024 Council Meeting