



Women's Council
· Wisconsin ·

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wisconsin Women's Council
Friday, July 28, 2023; 1:00-2:15 PM
Held virtually via MS Teams

Council Members Present:

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

Staff Present: Jenifer Cole, WWC Executive Director; Marissa Feller, Lt. Gov.'s office; Richard Rydecki, DOA-DEO Deputy Administrator; Margie Berkowitz, Sen. Hesselbein's Office

Public Present: None

- 1) **Call to Order:** Chair Gaumer Hutchison called the meeting of the Wisconsin Women's Council to order at 1:07.
 - a) Chair welcomed new Governor's appointee: Department of Financial Institutions' Deputy Secretary Patti Epstein. P. Epstein introduced herself and shared about her background and experience.
- 2) **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - a) May 26, 2023 – Dr. Bowman moved to approve; Seconded by G. Aranda-Pino Gabby; Approved unanimously.
 - b) June 23, 2023 – Dr. Bowman moved to approve; Second by N. Nelson; Discussion– friendly amendment to correct name of guest: Nathalie Kristenson (Dr. Bowman's mother who attended the July meeting); Amendment approved unanimously. Minutes approved unanimously.
- 3) **Review and Adopt Proposed 2021-2023 Biennial Report:**
 - a) Dr. Bowman moved to approve submitting report as drafted to Governor Evers and the State Legislature as required by Wis. Stats. s. 16.01(2)(g); Seconded by R. Fernandez.
 - i. Discussion – Dr. Bowman noted that it seemed that the report was developed quickly. J. Cole explained that this biennial report is a statutory requirement that the Council report on its activities every two years, which differs from the Status of Women and other topical reports the Council generates. The biennial report functions like an annual report does for a non-profit organization or private sector business and is developed using Council records, meeting minutes, and Council communications records.
 - ii. Dr. Bowman noted appreciation for the focus on the MMIWG events and the Hmong women's quilt exhibit.
 - iii. Overall, Council noted appreciation for the flow, style, and format of the report. Council thanked J. Cole for her hard work on the report.

Report approved unanimously. J. Cole will submit the report to the Governor and Chief Clerks of the Assembly and Senate.

4) Sponsorship Requests – Chair Gaumer Hutchison yielded the floor to Vice Chair Nelson due to possible conflict of interest.

- a) Wisconsin Society of Association Executives (WSAE) Women's Conference Sponsorship Request – Lt. Governor Rodriguez moved to consider request; Seconded by G. Aranda-Pino.
 - i. Discussion – Council discussed concerns that it is too soon in the fiscal year, while the operating budget is still in development, to sponsor events. Also discussed concerns that the conference did not reach a wide enough audience given the sponsorship and ticket amounts. Motion failed – Seven Council members voted not to fund sponsorship request from WSAE. D. Gaumer Hutchison abstained.
- b) Wisconsin Public Education Network Summer Summit Sponsorship Request – Lt. Governor Rodriguez moved to consider request; Seconded by G. Aranda-Pino.
 - i. Discussion – Council discussed concerns that it is too soon in the fiscal year, while the operating budget is still in development, to sponsor events. Also discussed concern that conference topic was not closely enough related to the focus of the Women's Council—teaching and education certainly intersect with women's issues; however, the summit did not include a focus on women or gender specifically. Dr. Bowman requested that the Council develop guidelines for considering sponsorship requests. Motion failed – Seven Council members voted not to fund sponsorship request from WSAE. D. Gaumer Hutchison abstained.

5) Director's Report:

- a) SFY23 Operating Budget Closeout – J. Cole reported that State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 is not closed until appropriation activity is certified on August 15th, the final SFY2023 spend will not be available until that time.
- b) SFY24 Operating Budget Planning – J. Cole reported that the Budget Analyst position responsible for the WWC operating budget development is currently vacant. J. Cole assisting with interviews; however, until an individual is hired and up to speed, the section chief is helping with WWC budget development and biennial budget implementation. This may cause some delays.
 - i. Office space shared-cost (rent); assessments (IT and other shared services); overhead (salary and fringe); and insurance costs will be loaded into operating budget template and J. Cole will work with analyst and/or section chief to develop variable cost/discretionary spending portion of operating budget.
 - ii. Depending on status of the state compensation plan that has been submitted to the Joint Committee on Employment Relations, wage and fringe adjustments will need to be reflected.
 - iii. J. Cole shared overview of operating budget development timeline: 8/21-9/29/2023 – DOA and Divisions develop budgets; 8/24/2023 – operating budget training held; 10/2/2023 – Budgets due to Bureau of Financial Management; 10/2-10/13/2023 – BFM reviews and finalizes budgets; 10/13-10/16/2023 – budgets are loaded into fiscal management and monitoring application.
 - iv. Chair Gaumer Hutchison noted that underspending lapses to the state's general fund and asked if there were opportunities to go back to the Joint Committee on Finance to request a budget increase. J. Cole responded that state agencies and programs can make s. 16.515 (additional funds) and/or 16.505 (position authority) requests; however, the Women's

Council's program would likely not be appropriate or eligible for making such requests outside of the biennial budget process.

6) Project Updates:

- a) Hmong Women's Story Cloth Exhibit – J. Cole reported that the exhibit in Eau Claire had closed and thanked Rep. Emerson for helping to coordinate the exhibit. J. Cole and Chair Gaumer Hutchison working to get the exhibit displayed in Green Bay next.
- b) Status of Women Research Project – J. Cole reported that the steering committee met at the end of June to start brainstorming the scope of research and report. Meeting with the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) scheduled for August 10 to discuss partnership.
 - i) G. Aranda-Pino highlighted need to engage BIPOC women and communities in the project and asked for referrals from Council members.
 - ii) Chair Gaumer Hutchison asked about seeking sponsorship from Bureau of Indian Affairs. Dr. Bowman and R. Fernandez expressed inclination to seek local participation first.

7) Recap of June 2023 Meeting in Stevens Point and Discuss Planning for Next In-Person Meeting in September:

- a) Chair Gaumer Hutchison shared the Council's gratitude to Vice Chair Nelson for planning and coordinating such a great meeting in Stevens Point.
- b) Vice Chair Nelson expressed that she does not want that meeting to be "one and done". Asked Council member how the Council can elevate the organizations and their issues? What is actionable after meetings like this?
 - i) Dr. Bowman suggested writing a letter of support to help their advocacy. Chair Gaumer Hutchison and J. Cole will work on this.
 - ii) Chair Gaumer Hutchison suggested writing a letter about the issues of childcare funding and support for the additional funding the Governor has requested of the Legislature.
- c) Planning of next meeting – Chair Gaumer Hutchison and Vice Chair Nelson asked Council members for volunteers to help plan and host the next in-person meeting (September 22) and to select a location. R. Fernandez volunteered to help plan the meeting to be held at the College of the Menominee Nation in Keshena, WI. Will work to gather women leaders to sit on the panel and discuss women's issues in Indian country.

- 8) Closing Remarks and Adjournment:** Chair Gaumer Hutchison asked those still in attendance to introduce themselves for new member, Deputy Secretary Epstein as introductions earlier in the meeting were paused to attend to business while there was a quorum.

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

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