



Women's Council  
· Wisconsin ·

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Wisconsin Women's Council – March 6, 2019**

**Wisconsin State Capitol, Room 328 NW  
Madison, Wisconsin**

**Mary Jo Baas, Chair**

**Board Members Present:** Mary Jo Baas, Patty Cadorin, Karen Katz, Katie Mnuk, Kim Nickel, Carrie Richard, Senator Janis Ringhand, and Shelby Schmuldach. A quorum was present.

Also present: Dr. Jodi Eastberg, Executive Director, Alverno College, Research Center for Women and Girls; Kelly Cole, Public Relations, Alverno College; Christine Lidbury, Executive Director; and Taylor Palkowski, WWC Intern.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am.
2. **Guest Presentation**

Christine report that prior to the Board meeting the Council hosted a legislative briefing, noticed and open to the public, on the new report on the Status of Girls in Wisconsin. Attending from the Board were Lisa Armaganian, Patty Cadorin and Karen Katz. Approximately 20 people attended, including two State Senators, staff from eight other legislative offices, and representatives from non-profits. No Council business was discussed.

Christine Lidbury introduced Dr. Eastberg and her work in carrying out the 2018-2019 the Status of Girls in Wisconsin. She noted the Council's history in partnering with Alverno College to create the first report in 2008 and the Council's role in developing the methodology and scope of the original report. She reported that the Research Center for Women and Girls took on the report as part of its ongoing research agenda and issued subsequent reports in [years]. The 2018-2019 is the most comprehensive report to-date.

Dr. Eastberg talked about her presentation earlier in the day at a legislative briefing in the Capitol, hosted by the Women's Council. She thanked the Council for organizing the session. Board members asked for a copy of her presentation PowerPoint to be shared with them.

Dr. Eastberg was asked to talk about the future of the report and how the Council might support future work. Suggestions included:

- Hosting listening sessions at the Capitol on methodology and issues/questions covered and look for gaps in questions or topics addressed.
- Assist with public and media outreach.
- Financial sponsorship contributions.

Dr. Eastberg reported that the Status of Girls report is updated, typically, every three to four years. Currenting planning for 2021-22 as part of their long-term research agenda.

The report costs \$50K to \$70K to produce, depending on the type of publication, printing and programs. For the current version, they raised about half of those funds, the rest provided by Alverno. Research is provided by Alverno faculty.

Discussion ensued. The Council asked about the possibility of providing statewide outreach such as a research road show by county. The Board affirmed the Council's interest in keeping connected to the report and assisting with the next iteration in 2021.

### **3. Executive Director's Report (Handout attached).**

2019 Governor's Budget. The Governor's 2019-21 budget includes a "current services" budget for the Women's Council. Christine reported that the Women's Council budget is an "Other Assigned Agency" under the Department of Administration (DOA) budget and budget requests to the Governor's budget development process with state agencies, for us takes placed through the DOA budget. A budget request for a \$40K increase to the Council budget, specifically around an evidence-based research agenda, to DOA, but DOA declined to include the request in the proposed DOA budget.

After talking with Governor's staff, Christine submitted three budget requests directly to Governor's staff – the \$40K research proposal; a \$20K general program increase to off-set budget loses to increases in administrative overhead over the past eight years; and a proposal to create a 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial Committee/Projects to recognize Wisconsin's role as the first to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1919 and the 2020 Centennial of passage of universal suffrage giving women the vote. None were included in the Governor's budget proposal. That proposal now goes to the Legislature.

19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial. Discussion ensued about the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial proposal. Based on board question, Christine noted that the Wisconsin Historical Society would be hosting events, there was no committee or other organization that had responsibility for planning or recognition. Board members noted that "this is a big deal." Historical moment for Wisconsin that should have a larger recognition by the Women's Council and the legislature. Christine was encouraged to find opportunities to request money from the legislature, appear before Joint Finance Committee, talk with the Department of Tourism, meet with the Historical Society on local efforts – create articles for local newsletters - and partnership possibilities.

Statewide Survey of Caregivers. Christine provided an update on the Council's partnership with the Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance on a statewide survey of family caregivers. Ascension Health System provided a \$500 grant for incentives via a gift card drawing for survey participants. Christine thanked Dr. Lisa Armaganian for facilitating the request and award. The survey is scheduled to open for responses in April.

Status of Women Factsheets. Women's Council intern Taylor Palkowski provided an update on her project to create and update 2-page factsheets on the status of women. Taylor distributed the factsheet on Women in the Population and reviewed the results. She distributed a list of planned future factsheets, including educational attainment and labor force participation.

#### **4. Group Photo**

At 12:00 the Council adjourned temporarily for a group photo in the Capitol Rotunda. The Council reconvened at 12:50 PM.

#### **5. Recognizing Mary Jo Baas. Chair.**

Christine noted that, by statute, the Women's Council Chair is selected by the Governor. While Ms. Baas, who was appointed by Governor Walker, remains ongoing as the Council's Chair, the unknown schedule around future board appointments, customary with a newly elected Governor, led the Council to take the opportunity to recognize Ms. Baas for her work as Chair since 2011.

Ms. Baas was thanked and lauded by numerous members for her exemplary service as Chair, as well as for her long-standing support and commitment to the Council and its mission and the history and perspective this has brought to the Council's work and deliberations. Ms. Baas was recognized for her leadership and for creating and supporting a productive, respectful and friendly Board culture that values the views and expertise of all who come to the table and honors the bi-partisan foundations of the Council.

#### **5. Women's Council Review: 2011-2019**

Christine provided an overview of the programs and projects carried out under the guidance and leadership of the current Council, including a statewide anti-human trafficking public education and outreach initiative "Human Trafficking Happens Here" in partnership with the WI Department of Justice Crime Victim's Council; Women and Manufacturing conference featuring Senator Tammy Baldwin and Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch; and the 2011-13-15-17-19 Trailblazer Awards all featuring Governor Scott Walker and Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, with ongoing sponsorship from BMO Harris Bank – just to name a few programs and activities.

Christine reported that with the Council's limited staff and financial resources, the Council has looked to identify a current or upcoming issue effecting Wisconsin women and seek to elevate the discussion and dialogue around the issue and take it statewide. A working model

for Council programs has been to 1) partner with another state agency on a priority program and 2) spread the products, expert resources and networks across a variety of mediums (event, research, publications, social media, networking).

- Elevate the Discussion on Issues
- Networking & Connecting
- Non-partisan Research
- Identifying Partnerships
- Public Education

Discussion ensued. Council members supported this model, particularly with the Council's limited resources. Suggestions moving forward included, more emphasis on private sector partnership, including funding opportunities for programs or additional staff; seeking grants; and more media outreach to gain visibility both for the issue and for the Council's work.

6. There were no public comments or announcements.

Motion to Adjourn - Moved: Kim Nickel; Second: Senator Ringhand. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Lidbury