



Women's Council
· Wisconsin ·

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wisconsin Women's Council
Friday, May 17, 2024; 1:00 – 2:15 PM
Virtually via MS Teams

Council Members Present:

x	Sen. Melissa Agard	x	Dep. Sec. Patti Epstein	Ex.	Carrie Richard
x	Gabby Aranda-Pino		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	Ex.	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; Genevieve Lambert, WWC Intern; Madeline Norton, Office of Rep. Emerson; Rachel Roberson, Office of Lt. Governor Rodriguez

Invited Guests Present: Gina Rodriguez and Debbie Pascal from the U.S. Dept. of Labor Women's Bureau.

- 1) **Call to Order & Chair's Welcome:** Chair Gaumer Hutchison and called the meeting of the Wisconsin Women's Council to order at 1:03 p.m.
 - a) Chair Gaumer Hutchison welcomed the Council's new intern, Genevieve Lambert, who is participating in the State of WI Student Diversity Internship Program for the summer.
- 2) **Presentation on the Programs of the Women's Bureau – Gina Rodriguez, Regional Administrator, U.S. Department Women's Bureau, Region 5:** Daria Hall provided a presentation about the work of the Women's Bureau, particularly around efforts to end the gender wage gap, eliminate caregiver penalties, and addressing all forms of workplace discrimination, violence and harassment. It was noted that 10% of the gender wage gap is attributed to the gendered division of labor and the disproportionate feminization of certain low-wage sectors – highlighted Women's Bureau report, *Bearing the Cost*. Among its initiatives, the Women's Bureau provides technical assistance in states' implementation of paid leave policies and grant making for workforce development for non-traditional employment for women. See attached slides.
- 3) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 5, 2024:** Motion to approve - Sen. Agard; Second – N. Nelson. N. Nelson noted correction to National Poetry Day item. Minutes approved as corrected.
- 4) **Review of Sponsorship Requests:**
 - a) **Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee (Two Events):**
 - i. WF Community Talk Back...Imagining the Possibilities with Saint Paul City Council on Thursday, September 26. Motion to approve \$1000 sponsorship – P. Epstein; Second – G. Aranda-Pino; Approved.
 - ii. WF Engaged Democracy...Trust and the Judicial Branch on Wednesday, June 5. Failed due to lack of motion.
 - b) **National Association of Commissions for Women Conference:** Motion to approve \$1000 sponsorship – N. Nelson; Second – G. Aranda-Pino; Approved.

c) UW-Stevens Point Trailblazer Conference: Motion to approve \$1000 sponsorship – N. Nelson; Second – P. Epstein; Approved.

d) Board unanimously approved delegating decision making about any sponsorship requests to Chair Gaumer Hutchison and J. Cole for requests received by the fiscal year end on June 30, 2024

5) Updates on Projects and Programs

a) Recap April 5 Council Meeting – Chair Gaumer Hutchison thanked the members able to attend the in-person meeting and noted that the Council received great feedback from panelists and attendees. Council presence across the state is very valuable and members are encouraged to attend in-person meetings and events.

b) Money Smart Week Webinars – J. Cole reported that both webinars went very well. Approximately 40 people attended each session and she is working to get the recordings posted to the website.

c) MMIWG Day of Awareness – J. Cole reported that the event was well attended and powerful and moving. The Attorney General was in attendance and the stories of the lives impacted were important to hear.

d) Status of Women Research and Report – G. Aranda-Pino reported that the Institute for Women's Policy Research provided a proposal; however, they would only be able to do about half of topic areas covered in the 2004 report. So, the Steering Committee is currently re-grouping and exploring alternative solutions for conducting the needed comprehensive research and report development.

e) Bylaws Workgroup Update – N. Nelson & P. Epstein reported that draft of the bylaws was currently under review with DOA Legal Services and would likely be brought before the full Council at the July meeting.

6) Closing Remarks and Adjournment – Chair Gaumer Hutchison noted that the Council has now heard from DOL, DWD, and DCF about women in the workforce and what issues women face to be engaged in and retained in the workforce during this "Year of the Worker". Noted that the new Early Care and Education Apprenticeship program just had its first graduate. Chair Gaumer Hutchison adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

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

Approved at the July 26, 2024 Council Meeting