



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Women's Council

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Wisconsin Women's Council Executive Director's Report on Programs and Activities for 2005

January 27, 2006

BOARD MEETINGS

February 7, 2005

Testimony from Sharon Cantor, Milwaukee Women Inc. on Women on Public Boards and Elaine Maly, Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee on their priorities in the greater Milwaukee area and generally on women's funds.

June 6, 2005

Presentations from Wisconsin Women's Funds.

September 14, 2005

Executive Task Force on Planning

December 5, 2005

Executive Task Force on Planning

WEB SITE

Much work went into web site expansion, improvement and maintenance over 2005. The site is designed to serve as a clearinghouse for information for and about Wisconsin Women. Visitors to the web site in 2005 have nearly doubled over 2004 levels when the web site was launched in mid-2004. 2005 web usage statistics are attached.

Women's Resource Directory. More than 350 entries. Expanded and updated by an undergraduate student intern, summer 2005.

Policy features and fact sheets, including minimum wage, social security reform, women in public office women and business ownership, angel (business financing) networks.

Guest feature articles, contributed by Wisconsin women celebrating and recognizing the role of women in transforming Wisconsin's social and economic climate and improving the status of women across the state.

THE WISCONSIN WOMEN'S COUNCIL IDENTIFIES BARRIERS THAT PREVENT WOMEN
IN WISCONSIN FROM PARTICIPATING FULLY AND EQUALLY IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE
AND WORKS CLOSELY WITH PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT GROUPS
TO DEVELOP LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO THOSE INEQUITIES.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.WOMENSCOUNCIL.WI.GOV

RESEARCH

1. Improving Outcomes for Female Offenders

a. Intra-agency Advisory Group on Female Offenders, including WI Department of Corrections, WI Department of Workforce Development; WI Department of Health and Family Services, and WI Department of Commerce (public housing). Convened by the Women's Council, met twice in 2005.

b. Demographic Profile of Female Offenders

Demographic research conducted by the Women's Council in partnership with the WI Department of Corrections. Produced at the request of the Intra-agency Advisory Group to document how female offenders differ from their male counterparts and differ from one another by racial and ethnic group in their personal profiles and pathways to incarceration. This report, scheduled for release in early 2006, has striking findings and significant implications for policy and programs to support women leaving prison. Preliminary results were reported at the 2005 Women in Poverty Conference in Green Bay, WI. A sophisticated demographic analysis of DOC's offender database was carried out by Women's Council intern Dana Garbarski, a PhD Sociology student, UW Madison.

c. Female Offender Reintegration

Compilation and review existing inventories of social welfare support programs used by female offenders upon release to better assess how public benefits support or hinder reintegration. Begun in Fall 2005 with two graduate student interns from the UW-Madison LaFollette School of Public Affairs.

2. Benchmarking Women in Elected Office

ongoing

Initiated at the request of Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton. Statistics on women's representation in elected office in across Wisconsin, including state, county and municipal elected offices and school boards. Data has been collected and analyzed and a report is currently in drafting. The Department of Administration recently agreed to provide assistance in mapping our results to provide a better understanding of the distribution of women elected officials across the state.

3. Status of Women in Wisconsin, 2004 Update

Research Partner

Released in October 2004, the Women's Council continued to work with the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee to distribute and publicize the report as a tool for creating positive change.

The Update is an in depth follow up focusing on women of color to the 2002 Status of Women in Wisconsin Report -- an important benchmark developed by the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington D.C. comparing how women in Wisconsin fare compared with women in other states. The 88-page Update includes focus boxes on African American, Native American, Hmong and Hispanic women. The result is a comprehensive look at the progress and challenges facing the diverse population of women throughout the state.

Goals for the Status of Women in Wisconsin Update are to:

- increase awareness of women of color in the context of the status of women in Wisconsin;
- redefine debate over policy issues that affect women; and
- promote policy changes to improve the status of all women in Wisconsin.

4. Status of Girls in Wisconsin

feasibility assessment process

In partnership with the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee and Alverno College, convened a working group to assess the feasibility, cost and existing models for a public policy report on the status of girls. The effort is now being launched and research is expected to begin in 2006.

MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

1. Expert Group Meeting on Girls Programming

January 2005 / Jane Clark, Chair

Participants: YWCA, Pearls for Teen Girls, Girl Scouts, United Way, Girls in Charge Coalition, Girls Neighborhood Power

- a. Recommendation for statewide Report on the Status of Girls in Wisconsin
- b. Recommendation for pilot project on career mentoring for pre-teen girls
- c. Ongoing Advisory Group of leading organizations serving girls in Wisconsin

2. Women's Funds of Wisconsin Statewide Meeting and Reception, Madison

June 2005

Participants included board members and staff of community women's funds from Milwaukee, Green Bay, Fox Valley Region, Janesville, Madison, Oshkosh, Kenosha and LaCrosse.

- a. Women's Funds of Wisconsin meeting. With the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, hosted the first ever meeting of community women's funds from across Wisconsin to talk about priorities and opportunities for collaboration and leveraging resources to achieve policy goals. As a result of the meeting, women's funds around the state committed to supporting the effort to produce a Status Report on Girls in Wisconsin and set in place a process to continue regular dialogue between the women's funds about common issues such as fundraising, management and policy priorities.
- b. Hosted a reception the State Residence for the Women's Funds with elected and appointed officials and civic leaders. More than 100 attendees.

3. Women Soar, Oshkosh

Event Co-Sponsor

July 2005

In conjunction with Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) AirVenture Oshkosh, the world's largest aviation celebration, EAA inaugurated *Women Soar* to celebrate the achievements of women in the field of aviation, technology, engineering, science, and to inspire young women and girls to consider and pursue the vast opportunities in these areas. With a focus on one-on-one mentoring, the two-day event brought together outstanding women who achieved success and recognition in their respective fields with girls in grades 8-12 that registered for the program. 83 girls registered for the 2005 programs and EAA hopes to double the number of participants in 2006. The Women's Council sponsored scholarships for 10 low-income girls from around Wisconsin to attend the program and participates on the event planning committee.

4. Women in Poverty Conference, Green Bay

Event Co-Sponsor and Workshop Leader

October 2005

Organized by the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association, this annual conference draws over 250 people from throughout Wisconsin to focus on issues that affect low-income women and their families. The conference brings together human service professionals, government officials, low-income advocates, educators, community leaders, and low-income women to talk about achieving successful solutions to poverty.

- a. Workshop: On the Inside: Building a Profile of Women Inmates in Wisconsin State Prisons (Preliminary results of the female offender study, delivered by Nicole Bowman-Farrell & Dana Garbarski)
- b. Workshop: No One Ever Told Us We Need to be Financially Literate (exploring the issue of how to recruit women into financial literacy education programs, delivered by Women's Council and Wisconsin Technical College's Adult Basic Education Program staff)
- c. The Women's Council provided 6 conference scholarships for low-income women.

5. "Paving the Way" Conference, Milwaukee

Event Organizer

November 2005

- a. Steering Committee with representatives from the Coalition of Labor Union Women, YWCA Madison, Wisconsin Technical Colleges, Women's Transportation Seminar of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Federal Highway Administration.
- b. Paving the Way Conference, a half-day conference with more than 100 participants from industry, labor, government and training programs, including keynotes, networking and workshops on building and expanding career opportunities for women in the transportation industry both as skilled laborers and as business owners. Co-developed with the WI Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

Two results from the conference: 1) WisDOT created a brochure consolidating information on its many internship and apprenticeship programs and 2) WisDOT is working on adopting a recommendation from attendees to sponsor periodic roundtables for Disadvantages Business Enterprises (DBEs) and women laborers.

c. In conjunction with the conference, hosted the TrANS 10th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon and sponsored TrANS Legacy Awards. The Women's Council was instrumental in founding the Transportation Alliance for New Solutions (TrANS) program, a successful and nationally recognized public-private partnership that apprentices women and minorities into skilled jobs in road construction.

6. Strongest Links Conference, Madison

Co-Sponsor

to be held January 2006

Sponsored by the WI Department of Workforce Development and the WI Head Start Association, this conference is focused on linking child care and economic development strategies. The Women's Council is a co-sponsor, planning committee member and will host one of the conference workshops.

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

1. Governor's Financial Literacy Council

Council Member – Ann Peggs

Convened in March 2005, the Literacy Council consists of 20 members including the heads of six state agencies and top-level representatives from Wisconsin businesses, financial institutions and non-profit organizations. The Women's Council was offered a seat on the Financial Literacy Council to represent the diverse concerns of women around issues of financial literacy. The Literacy Council's mission is to advise the Governor on how government, private sector organizations and community groups can improve the levels of financial literacy and knowledge among un-banked individuals and low- and moderate-income families so they can more effectively access credit and participate in our evolving financial system. The Council met twice in 2005 and is now working in committees to develop and implement programs.

2. Women's Leadership

a. Milwaukee Women, Inc. Steering Committee Member. Worked closely on analyzing the data and report drafting for "A Time for Change" – benchmarking the status of women executives and board members in Wisconsin top public and private companies. (October 2005)

b. Governor's Appointment Database for State Boards and Commissions. Developed in partnership with the Governor's Office to increase awareness and access to the more than 200 appointments made each year to state government boards and commissions. Available on the Women's Council web site.

3. Women's History Month (March): Drafted a Proclamation issued by the Governor's Office. Special Web Site features

OTHER PRESENTATIONS BY STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

Wisconsin Women in County Government Annual Meeting

Wisconsin Women's Network Annual Meeting

Wisconsin Women = Prosperity Advisory Group

Diversity Today, Cable TV (Milwaukee)

Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Executive Director's Retreat