



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

MINUTES

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

AUGUST 1, 2016

12:00 PM

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Attendance: Betty Bernal, Kimberly Brito, Maribeth Calabro, Carol Anne Costa, Lisa D'Agostino, Adriana Dawson, Elizabeth Francis, Dr. Eileen Kwesiga, Linda Mahoney, Randy Martinez, Lisa Middleton, Tejal Tarro, Kathleen Wilson, Barbara Wong.

Absent: Janet Coit, Representative Doreen Costa, Seema Dixit, Senator Hanna Gallo, Senator Gayle Goldin, Stephanie Gonzalez, Representative Joy Hearn, Representative Maureen Messier, Senator Elaine Morgan.

Call to Order

Chair Tejal Tarro called the session to order at 12:00 pm.

Introduction

Tejal Tarro reviewed the outline for the strategic planning session and reminded the Commissioners to be mindful that the target must be clear and establish a vision for the Commission's work moving forward. Additionally, Commissioners were instructed to discuss and review the stakeholder impact that any new initiatives will have. All participants worked to brainstorm and identify the stakeholders, and the larger group was split into three working groups (group 1 = governmental stakeholders; group 2 = business, education, & womens' organizations; group 3 = women, men and families).

Breakout Session 1: Stakeholder Impact

The three working groups met independently and discussed what the Commission wants those stakeholders to feel, have, and experience the Commission as.

Breakout Session 1 Review of Findings

The working groups reconvened and discussed their findings. Overall, the findings generally pointed towards the Commission becoming a change agent to: promote women's leadership; create urgency; facilitate collaboration and connectivity; problems and solutions; Lead/be the change; Change the narrative/paradigm; and Give voice to women and girls on policy, solutions, etc. The teams further discussed the best ways to amplify the voices of women and girls by (1) creating urgency, (2) changing the paradigm, (3) facilitating dialogue, and (4) connecting and collaborating for solutions and resources.

Breakout Session 2: Action Impact

The three working groups met independently and discussed what steps will create the greatest impact as well as the range of actions that may be taken along with the expected results.

Breakout Session 2 Review of Findings

The working groups reconvened and discussed their findings. Overall, the findings underscored the need for constant communication, a desire to increase the visibility of the commission, a push to formally announce the commission, and efforts to develop champions. Commissioners discussed the best ways to achieve these goals, as well as the partners that the Commission could identify to best achieve these goals.

Closing Session

As a group, Commissioners discussed next steps to bring these ideas to fruition. The Commission decided to meet with different stakeholders in order to inform them what the Commission is doing, to identify and develop champions, and to promote the corporate challenge. In terms of immediate needs and goals, the Commission decided to develop a response to the recently-passed law in Massachusetts as well as to develop a presentation for Governor on the work and the progress of the Commission.