



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

MINUTES

FULL COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2016
6:30 PM
STATE HOUSE
2nd FLOOR SENATE LOUNGE

Attendance: Kimberly Brito, Maribeth Calabro, Lisa D'Agostino, Seema Dixit, Elizabeth Francis, Christina Hoefsmit, Dr. Eileen Kwesiga, Randy Martinez, Lisa Middleton, Tejal Tarro.

Absent: Betty Bernal, Representative Doreen Costa, Carol Anne Costa, Adriana Dawson, Senator Hanna Gallo, Senator Gayle Goldin, Stephanie Gonzalez, Representative Joy Hearn, Lee Krasner, Linda Mahoney, Representative Maureen Messier, Senator Elaine Morgan, Kathleen Wilson, Barbara Wong.

Call to Order

Chair Tejal Tarro called the session to order at 6:30 pm.

Chair Update

Tejal Tarro advised the Commission that a vote on a new Treasurer will need to be held due to a lack of attendees. Tejal further advised that a new Commissioner, Lee Krasner, has been appointed by the Governor and requested that the Commissioners welcome our newest member at the next meeting.

NEWPI Conference Update

The New England Women's Policy Initiative (NEWPI) conference is coming up on November 18th from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm at UMass Boston, and Tejal would like as many Commissioners in attendance as possible. Tejal has been an active part of the planning committee and needs assistance from Commissioners to spread the word about the conference. There also may be a few complimentary or discounted tickets available for RI Commissioners who wish to attend. Tejal will be moderating a panel and also discussing RI's pay equity work. NEWPI is seeking organizations to sponsor portions of the conference as well.

Policy Agenda Updates

Tejal reminded the Commission that we have decided to become the convener of resources and need to continue working to clarify how we will work in the policy realm, and will be rolled out in a phased approach. Carly, our intern, will be conducting research on this topic and indicates that we will need to produce and maintain a solid website in order to be a resource hub. Phase one will be the website and impact analysis; phase 2 will be serving as a mediator/convener to bring interest groups together; phase

3 will be to drive agenda items. We will also need to be mindful of our deliverables and to keep an eye on what is coming up in the next legislative sessions.

Funding & Staffing

The Commission will need to look for alternative sources of funding, including potentially grants.

ROI Update

Renee Aloisio attended to update the Commission on the pay equity challenge. The Commission will be uniquely situated to amplify the message being developed. A recent 3 hour design meeting with the Vision 2020 team allowed the group to come up with the basic framework, and next steps include developing a path to the pilot program. A project manager is on board who will also be able to push this project forward. They have completed work on the contract, website, logo, ambassador liaisons, as well as accountability & reporting feedback. November 16th is the next key milestone: the Advancing Women's Excellence breakfast with a panel discussion. The target date for the pilot is March 2017, and the pilot group will need to be identified. Administrative work/assistance will be needed (1.5-2.0 FTE's) as this process continues to progress. In other states, university alliances exist, and that option should be explored here.

Communications Platform

Tejal attended a service learning fair, and recruited students to assist with a marketing plan. Tejal polled the Commissioners and asked if anyone was interested in helping with this effort.

Stakeholder Engagement Update

Tejal advised that Betty is leading this charge, and asked Commissioners to email Betty regarding any organizations they have connections with. Tejal met with Senator Reed's office and discussed a joint event with Senator Reed's office and the Women's Fund in March or April. Tejal also interfaced with the STEAM program at RIC, who would like a Commissioner to be involved with their program.

Interns

Lisa discussed interfacing with the Gender Studies and Graduate Studies chair at RIC regarding potential interns. Tejal advised that the Commission is in need of interns to perform policy analysis, communications, and stakeholder engagement functions. Lisa will continue to work to arrange a meeting with RIC officials to discuss internship opportunities with the Commission.

Governor's Presentation

Tejal stated that the Commission will need to pull the two big issues (ROI project & Director) apart for the purposes of meeting with the Governor. We can work towards a meeting with the Governor at the end of the year.

Tejal closed the meeting at 7:45 pm.