



**Council for Women & Youth Involvement**  
Department of Administration

## **N.C Governor's Council for Women Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

February 20, 2020

NC Department of Environmental Quality, 217 W. Jones Street

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**Members Present:** Candance Gingles, Del Mattioli, Patricia Parker, Robin Robinson, Elsa Jimenez-Salgado, Adrienne Spinner, Annette Taylor, Katherine Woodbury, Lyric Thompson, Kimberly Moore, Crystal Moore, Andreina Hall,

**Members Absent:** Joyce Payne, Emily Kirby, Settle Monroe, Catherine McDowell

**Member on call:** Jenny Black, Mindy Oakley, Dana O'Donovan, Carrie Stewart,

**NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement Staff Present:** Mary Williams-Stover, Deborah Torres, Angela Winston-Hill, Molly Overholt, Kiricka Yarbough-Smith, Kendra Underwood, Tajiauana Basnight (Intern)

**Guests Present:** Kristen Guillory, Governor Office, Sangeetha Menon, Executive Director, Kiran, Inc, Katie Hall, DOA, Legislative Liaison, Emily Roach, DOA Secretary's Office and Jeanne Smoot, Tahirih Justice Center, Washington, DC on the conference call.

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**Meeting was called to order by Advisory Board Co- Chair, Annette Taylor at 10:00 a.m.**

Welcome, Call to Order, and Introductions: Co- Chair, Annette Taylor welcomed everyone. Ms. Taylor read the minutes and Ethics Statement. No conflicts of interest were stated. Members, staff introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: Annette Taylor asked for discussion-none. Motion made by Judge Robin Robinson to approve the minutes as written. Second by Lyric Thompson. Unanimous Approval for October 17, 2019 minutes.

Presentation: Child Marriage Research- Lyric Thompson, ICWR and Jeanne Smoot, Tahirih Justice Center,

### **NC Age of Marriage Law and Data**

- State law permits **minors as young as 14** to marry legally. N.C. is tied with Alaska for the lowest legal age of marriage in the U.S.
- Children who are 14 and 15 must undergo a judicial process to obtain permission to marry by accessing a "pregnancy exception". The pregnancy exception refers to when one of the parties to the marriage is pregnant or has already become a parent.
- Children who are 16 and 17 can be married by proving parental consent.
- Until this research, NC was one of 6 states with no publicly available information on prevalence of child marriage

### **Reasons to revisit North Carolina's Laws**

- **Marriage**-age statutes have not been amended for = 20 years
- Mounting research evidence of harms of child marriage
- Greater understanding of overlap between child marriages and forced marriages
- More testimony by survivor-advocates about linkages with abuse, exploitation
- Growing National movement to end child marriage – including other Southern Legislative Conference states

## **Discussion**

*Co-Chairwoman’s Report:* Annette Taylor spoke on annual CFW Women’s History Month celebration: “She Changed the World: NC Women & Girls Breaking Barriers in Civic Engagement”. Governor’s Executive Mansion March 17, 2020. Targeted individuals will be invited to Celebrate; Girl Scouts will partner with CFW this year as lead sponsor. Women Leaders, Elected Officials, Youth Leaders and Women’s Council, Commissioners. Promotion of 2020 WHM.

Strategic Planning Priorities for 2020: Council identified and discussed strategies to support the following programs:

- Women’s History Month - March 2020 (recognition of women leaders in NC)
- Status of Women in NC Report #3: May/June Launch 2020
- Women’s Equality Day - August 2020
- Women’s Commissions Support and Expansion

Executive Director’s Report: Mary Williams-Stover reported:

- Message Strategy-Cumulative Approach: Status of Women in NC: Voter Participation 2020
- Talk About Reports 1 and 2 (Employment and Earnings and Health and Wellness)

## **Key Messages and Presentation (Linking Reports)**

- Good physical and mental health helps women reach their educational and employment goals, remain financially stable and fully contribute to their communities.
- The Status of Women in NC: Health and Wellness Report analyzes data on women’s health identifies changes in health status since the publication of the IWPR Report 2008.
- Report follows the Employment and Earnings Status of Women Report released in 2018 available on website.
- Highlights of E&E Report illustrate need for pay equity, impact of education and status of employment of women in positions that allow financial stability. County level data illustrates disparity between E&E in rural and urban counties. Policy recommendations highlight need for affordable childcare to support working women and talent retention.
- Health and Wellness Report Released in 2019 Illustrates need for policies to close the insurance gap in women’s health, especially for women of color and women living in rural communities. Policy recommendations include expanding access to health care in NC – health issues are economic issues. Policies to expand Paid maternity and family leave, paid sick days, safe days, affordable healthcare for part-time workers are a few ways to begin.
- Reports include status of women political engagement in voting 2020 and poverty and opportunity for women 2021.

Utilize stories and profiles of Women engaged in Political service, advocacy, leadership to Add Stories.

- **Status of Women in NC: Political Participation 2020** to be released in late Spring
- Profiles highlight stories of women change agents – Consultant and Meredith College Intern, Lela Ali and Kamani are developing these
- Provide stories to support the narrative and provide messages for impact/a story is vital to legislative change
- Why voting matters for women?

**The Status of Women in NC** reveals need for policies that improve outcomes for women to thrive.

- Close the insurance gap – Expand access to health care / rural health depends on closing gap
- Improve pay equity
- Reduce health mortality for women of color
- Reduce increase in STI for women
- Support programs to educate youth about healthy relationships
- Increase services and resources to foster health relationships
- Increase access to affordable childcare

Educating ourselves and understanding where elected officials and candidates stand on these issues is vital to improving women lives in NC. Running for office is another way to change policies-a seat at the table matters. Engaging matters.

**Status of Women in NC: Political Participation Report 2020/Timetable**

- Profiles completed – **March 30, 2020**
- Peer Reviewers/Edits – NC Council will provide IWPR with edits by April 30, 2020
- IWPR will deliver print ready report – May 2020
- Printing reports for launch and outreach events in June 2020

County level data only state and national data

Women’s representation in state and national government

Voter turnout by gender

Institutional resources: State Commission for Women, Campaign Training for Women, Women’s Political Action Committee, State Chapter of the National Women’s Political Caucus

**Public Comment/Announcements**

Women’s History Month – March 17, 2020 (Invitation Only Event)

Women’s Empowerment Raleigh- April 25, 2020

NCCADV Conference – May 12, 2020 – Greensboro, NC

Adjourn meeting: Motion to adjourn made by Lyric Thompson. Second by Adrienne Spinner. Unanimous. Meeting Adjourned at 1:30p.m.

**Next Meeting: May 21, 2020: The Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, 6136 Burlington Road, Sedalia, NC 27342**

Submitted by Deborah Torres

