

N.C Council for Women Special Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2022, 10:00 am until 11:00 am

This Meeting was Conducted Remotely by Zoom

Ethics Statement: The State Government Ethics Act mandates that, at the beginning of any meeting, the Chair remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to whether any member knows of any conflict or potential conflict with respect to matters to come before the Council.

Members Present: Lyric Thompson, Vice-Chair, Liz Doherty, Candance Gingles, Alison Kiser, Elsa Jimenez-Salgado, Dana O’Donovan, Dr. Joyce Payne, Dr. Tracey Ray, Judge Robin Robinson, Adrienne Spinner, Judge Mary Ann Tally, and Karen Wallace Meigs.

Members Absent: Annette Taylor, Chair, Del Mattioli, Mindy Oakley, Elizabeth Outten, Dr. Patricia Parker, Beth Posner, Carrie Stewart, and Kate Woodbury.

NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement (CFWYI) Staff Present: Danielle Carman, Charnessa Ridley, Alisa Milliken, Alana Denton, Angela Winston-Hill, Diane Blumel, Philisa Fowler, Deatrice Williams, Gabrielle Smith, and Anaja McClinton.

Guests Present: Pam Cashwell, DOA Secretary, David Elliott, DOA Deputy Secretary, Julia Hegele, DOA Communications Director, and Evin Grant, DOA Policy Director.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Thompson at 10:00 a.m.

This Special meeting of the Council was called to prepare for a planned Women’s History Month Policy Roundtable Discussion at the Executive Mansion on March 31, 2022.

Carman shared the draft agenda and timeline for the event, which will allow for 30 to 40 minutes of substantive discussion, as well as a spreadsheet that compiled all of the Council’s report recommendations from the four-part Status of Women in North Carolina series and the COVID-19 Exploiting Inequities report. Thompson directed the Council members to a one-pager summarizing the key recommendations from the COVID-19 report. Thompson said the Council is free to revisit those top priorities, and noted that the group should confirm the current status of any legislation or policy initiatives that might impact those recommendations. She added that the Council needs to agree on the content of the recommendations that will be the focus of the discussion, as well as the individuals who should present those recommendations.

Secretary Cashwell shared her understanding of the people who will be in attendance along with the Council members, including other cabinet secretaries and staff to the Governor. Thompson suggested that it would be helpful to have the Governor’s Legislative Affairs Director and Policy Director, as well as the Secretary of North Carolina DHHS, in attendance. Secretary Cashwell said she would reach out to those people and encourage



their attendance. Secretary Cashwell noted that the event will begin at 3:00 but she encouraged everyone to arrive early to have time to get through security. Thompson further suggested that Council members and CFWYI staff try to touch base with the Governor's Policy Director and DOA's Legislative Liaison before the event. Payne said it might be helpful to seek more time with some of those key people after the event for a more concentrated discussion.

The Council members agreed to present topline findings, focusing mostly on [the priority recommendations in this document](#), in a series of five-minute presentations followed by questions and discussion. The Council members agreed to divide the presentations as follows:

1. **Health:** Kiser will present on the Health & Wellness report and the Exploiting Inequity report's health and safety key findings and recommendations.
2. **Political Participation:** Doherty will present on the Political Participation report and the Exploiting Inequity report's civic and political life key findings and recommendations.
3. **Economics:** Spinner will present on the Poverty & Opportunity report and O'Donovan will present on the Employment & Earnings report. This section may require more than five minutes because it combines two full reports.

Thompson will give some introductory remarks about the methodologies underlying the reports, and will explain the letter grades before the presentations. She will also chair the questions and discussions portion of the agenda after the presentations, with the goal of reserving at least 15 minutes for that discussion. Thompson asked all presenters to go through the spreadsheet containing recommendations that are relevant to their assigned areas and to send their professional bios and priority recommendations to Carman.

In addition to the background materials that had already been provided to the event organizers, Thompson asked Carman to send the COVID-19 Exploiting Inequity report and the one-pagers that accompanied each report.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.