



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PROGRAMS *and* PLANNING

**LOUISIANA WOMEN'S POLICY AND RESEARCH COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES**

January 17, 2019  
State Capitol, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Press Room

**Members in Attendance:**

Laura Badeaux	Melissa Horton
Tonya Bolden-Ball	Dr. Dana Hunter
Amanda Brunson	Dr. Anna Mahoney, via phone
Charmaine Caccioppi	Michelle Masse'
Trina Chu, via phone	Sen. Beth Mizell, via Penny Jones as proxy
Berkley Durbin	Dr. Shanta Proctor, via phone
Gail Gibson	Lynda Woolard, via phone
Julie Schwam Harris	

**Guests in Attendance:**

Pamela Allison  
Taryn Branson  
Dr. Bruce Parker

**Staff in Attendance:**

Amanda Brunson, Office on Women's Policy- Executive Director  
Madeline Robertson, Office on Women's Policy- Executive Assistant

**Call to Order:**

Charmaine Caccioppi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. and provided a welcome. Members and guests were invited to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Caccioppi called for a review of the agenda and minutes. Tonya Bolden-Ball moved to approve the minutes and Melissa Horton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Shared Learning:**

Ms. Caccioppi provided an overview of the 2018 ALICE report issued by the United Way. The report can be found at [https://issuu.com/louisianaassociationofunitedway/docs/18uw\\_alice\\_report\\_la\\_-\\_used\\_for\\_iss?e=22574709/66844506](https://issuu.com/louisianaassociationofunitedway/docs/18uw_alice_report_la_-_used_for_iss?e=22574709/66844506).

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

Julie Schwam Harris provided the report for the Economic subcommittee. Ms. Schwam Harris thanked Senator Mizell and the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus for their work as it pertains to the Ethics opinion regarding using campaign funds for childcare expenses. Ms. Schwam Harris also reminded the commission that there will be a Board of Ethics meeting on February 15 to revisit this issue. She reported that the subcommittee identified the following priority areas in relation to economic supports for women: pay transparency and equal pay; increasing the minimum wage; STEM; early childhood care and education; paid leave; and sexual harassment prevention and response. Ms. Schwam Harris explained that in terms of STEM, the ideas are to train, educate and encourage women to enter STEM fields which often lead to higher paying jobs. She noted that gender discrimination still exists in higher paying jobs. Ms. Schwam Harris also recommended that the report reflect Louisiana's ranking in comparison to other states. A discussion regarding pay secrecy ensued.

Berkley Durbin provided the report for the Health subcommittee. Ms. Durbin identified the priority areas as reducing incidents of maternal mortality; paid leave; access to comprehensive reproductive health and contraceptive services; and access to substance use/abuse treatment, including screening for mental health issues and substance use disorders and access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use for both pregnant and non-pregnant women. Gail Gibson noted that postpartum treatment options should be included. Dr. Dana Hunter noted that the report should also mention Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome.

Ms. Horton provided the report for the Hardships subcommittee. The subcommittee identified the following priorities for inclusion in the annual report: paid family leave, including maternity, paternity, parental and sick leave; improved birth outcomes; and criminal justice issues facing incarcerated women. Criminal justice issues include physical and mental healthcare for incarcerated women and the issue of women being shackled during childbirth.

Ms. Bolden-Ball presented for the Needs Identification subcommittee. Ms. Bolden-Ball recommended that this subcommittee fold into the Hardships subcommittee to minimize duplication.

Based on a discussion regarding what was missing, Ms. Schwam Harris suggested that the annual report also include sexual harassment, violence against women and sexual assault. Ms. Caccioppi said the report should highlight bipartisan victories, celebrate successes and reference historic legislation that was passed last year. It was suggested that the report should not be limited to legislative recommendations and that the ALICE report information should be included.

### **Annual Report to the Governor:**

Amanda Brunson gave an overview of what the Annual Report could look like, as well as a draft timeline for completion and a template to be used by subcommittees to organize each topic. Discussion ensued regarding the length and style of the report. It was decided that staff would provide the template to the subcommittee chairs and the goal is to limit each topic/priority to one page.

### **Legislative Updates:**

There were no legislative updates from commission members.

### **Additional Topics of Interest:**

Ms. Brunson suggested that the Shared Learning agenda item become a standing agenda item and a place for commission members to learn more or hear from a speaker regarding particular topics of interest. The Equal Rights

Amendment, a more in-depth look at economic security, and mini-reports from subcommittees were identified as additional topics of interest.

Ms. Bolden-Ball asked if there is a mechanism to disseminate the Annual Report in a way that offers functional use for women's organizations around the state. General consensus was to explore this further.

**LWPRC Membership and Requirements:**

Ms. Brunson stated that staff is reviewing membership and working to update the commission roster and member contact information. She also noted that members are required to receive training in Ethics and Preventing Sexual Harassment, both of which will be distributed to members soon.

**Other Business:**

No other business was reported.

**Public Comments:**

No public comments were reported.

**Adjournment:**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

**Upcoming commission meetings:**

Thursday, April 4, 2019  
Thursday, August 15, 2019  
Thursday, November 7, 2019

*All meetings will be held from 1-3 p.m.*  
Governor's 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Press Room, State Capitol  
900 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802