

Women in the Economy Commission Meeting - Minutes

Monday, March 23, 2015

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Room 215, East Senate Office Building

Commission: Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Rep. Becky Edwards, Sen. Deidre Henderson, Sen. Luz Escamilla, Carrie Mayne, Trina Eyring, Ann Marie Thompson, Judy Barnett, Heather Barnum, Jennifer Robinson

Excused: Anne Burkholder

Staff Support: Gail Tilson with additional support from Jen Jankowski

Attendees: Tracey Harty, Christine Harold, Jody Griffin, Rachael McQuillan, Christina Osborn, Gail Tilson, Monica Rodriguez, Kari Malkovich, Bethany Hyatt, Liesl Allen, Matthew Weinstein

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
Welcome	<p>Welcome (Rep. Chavez-Houck)</p> <p>The minutes from our last meeting were approved.</p>	<p>A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Feb. 17, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.</p>
Women in Transportation Presentation	<p>Tracey Harty, immediate past president of WTS (Women’s Transportation Seminar) Northern Utah, presented on behalf of several women’s professional organizations. The benefits to being a member of these organizations (Women in Water, Society of Women Engineers – SWE, and WTS) are opportunities for growth that may not be found within employment only.</p> <p>Culture of engineering profession needs to be changed to accommodate the needs of women.</p>	<p>Membership brings opportunities for leadership, networking, professional development and mentoring.</p> <p>Allowing women to work flexible schedules; working to bring male counterparts around to this way of thinking; and have a conducive environment for issues such as nursing mothers</p>

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	<p>Guiding young girls toward STEM careers while they are in junior high could be very beneficial. Counselors should be trained to help these girls explore these possibilities. Utah Futures might be an avenue to explore and see what the best training for counselors would be. Rep. Chavez-Houck added that Rep. Arent ran some legislation which passed, requiring counselors to be better trained.</p>	<p>being able to pump the milk.</p> <p>Rep. Chavez-Houck will visit with Rep. Arent and see what is being planned.</p>
Update of Wage Gap Research	<p>Commissioner Carrie Mayne reported that her office at DWS has teamed up with Voices for Utah’s Children, since they are also working on a similar project. This will be an air-tight analysis with a true comparison, apples to apples. There is an advising team comprised of a professor at the U. of U.; Matthew Weinstein from Voices for Utah’s Children; Natalie Torosyan, a research economist in Carrie’s office, and an intern, who are meeting weekly to check in on the progress being made.</p>	<p>Input from the team will ensure that output will align with the questions that we’ve been having in our Commission meetings. Results from this research will be ready to report in May.</p>
Legislative Update	<p>Co-Chairs Rep. Chavez-Houck and Rep. Becky Edwards: TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families -- Part of the assistance is for education. Prior to this legislative session, that assistance was capped at 24 months. This limited the choices women had because in many cases, it didn’t make sense to get into a program they couldn’t finish when funding would run out before completion. HB65 passed and it extended the 24 month time period to 36 months.</p> <p>Utah Futures – Legislation was on the table to increase funding from \$2 million to \$7 or \$9 million but it didn’t pass. Sen. Osmond had a bill that did pass that gave Utah Futures \$2 million. They are now housed with the Utah Education Technology Network.</p> <p>We are now moving into the interim period of the legislative year. This fall is when we will plan to submit our report to the Interim Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee.</p>	<p>Let’s invite Tami back in April and have her give us an update on what the plan is.</p> <p>Let’s talk about future policy recommendations. We will also have the wage gap report and any other research data. We</p>

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<p>Sub-committee Updates</p>	<p>Commissioner Robinson reported on the Research Sub-committee. First committee meeting will be held in two weeks. Research is on-going as well as updates being made to the briefing book.</p> <p>Commissioner Barnum reported on the Communications Sub-committee. The first meeting was held two weeks ago and we want to make sure we outreach to professional associations. We discussed how we want to make strides from an educational standpoint and utilize research that is being done. We're working on messaging – being consistent, not only as commissioners, but in our outreach. Who should be the Commission's media spokesperson? It was decided it should first go through the co-chairs and they may defer to a commission member with the most expertise in the specific area.</p>	<p>should work toward long-term recommendations as well as short-term wins.</p> <p>Before the meeting in two weeks, Commissioner Robinson would like the Research Sub-committee to meet with the co-chairs to see what directions they would like to focus on.</p> <p>We will meet again in two weeks and set priorities and develop our communications plan. We will be collecting stories to go along with the research. Stories are powerful and everyone has one.</p> <p>Rep. Chavez-Houck commented that it might be helpful for the Communications Sub-committee to listen to the original presentation on the bill (HB90) that enacted the Women in the Economy Commission. Just to make sure we're following the vision they set forth.</p>

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Next Meeting	<p>The question was asked by Judy Barnett if there will be an official signing of Rep. Miller's breast pumping bill. Other bills will also be signed and we will find out about those as well. Utah Futures: Sen. Osmond; Counseling bill: Rep. Aaron; TANF bill: Sen. Allen M. Christensen.</p> <p>Gail will send out a Doodle Poll so we can schedule the next meeting.</p>	Rep. Chavez-Houck will contact Rep. Miller and ask if there will be an official signing.