

## Women in the Economy Commission Meeting - Minutes

Monday, September 14, 2015

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

House Room 20

**Commission:** Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Rep. Becky Edwards, Sen. Luz Escamilla, Sen. Deidre Henderson, Trina Eyring, Ann Marie Thompson, Anne Burkholder, Jennifer Robinson, Judy Barnett, Kathy Bounous

**Excused:**

**Staff Support:** Gail Tilson with additional support from Jen Jankowski

**Attendees:** Barbara Munoz, Melissa Friegang, Sharyl Smith, Nic Dunn

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
Welcome	<p>Welcome (Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck)</p> <p>The minutes from our last meeting were approved.</p>	<p>A motion was made to approve the minutes from our July 16, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.</p>
<p>Presentation on the recent Poverty Report by the Community Action Partnership of Utah</p>	<p>Barbara Munoz, Policy Analyst for the Community Action Partnership of Utah addressed the Commission. Her presentation was on the recent Poverty Report by the C.A.P. of Utah. The data comes from the census, American Community Survey, which comes out every September.</p> <p>The report has a snapshot of poverty in the U.S. and poverty in Utah. Today we will look at poverty and how it affects women. Utah's poverty rate for married couples is 6%. Women alone with children under 18 have a poverty rate of 36.6%. Women alone with children under the age of 5 have a poverty rate of 38.1%.</p>	

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
	<p>White women have a poverty rate of 11%. Hispanic women are at 27% and black women have a poverty rate of 38%. Minority groups overall have a much higher poverty rate than white women. Poverty rate by educational attainment shows that individuals age 25 and older without a high school diploma have a poverty rate of 25%. With a high school diploma, that rate drops to 12%. Some college drops it again to 8%, while a bachelor's degree drops it even further to 5%.</p> <p>Overall, Utah has a high school graduation rate of 83%. The white female graduation rate is 85%. Racial minorities, especially those with language barriers and disabilities, fall desperately low.</p> <p>The poverty rate is based on a calculation of the price of food in the 1950s and they came up with a formula to expand that, based on the number of people in the household. When we talk about the poverty rate, we are talking about a very low level of income. Many people feel that the poverty rate should be based on the price of housing rather than the price of food.</p> <p>Rep. Chavez-Houck Welcomed our newest member of the Commission, Kathy Bounous, who is the Director of the Division of Legal Services, Department of Workforce Services. Kathy will replace Carrie Mayne.</p> <p>Presentation by Melissa Friegang, Director of Workforce Development at Logistic Specialties, Inc.</p> <p>Logistic Specialties, Inc. is a business development consulting firm. We have an economic development program which targets un-and-underemployed individuals. We work with Workforce Development, other government agencies, and partner with industry</p> <p>The 3 engagements we have focused on are: 1) A 2007 job creation program to provide services to small and medium size businesses, which has been very successful. 2) A pilot program which was established in 2014 and completed June 30, 2015, called the Economic Expansion Program. This program extended consulting services to large companies and provided Workforce Development strategies. 3) Jobs created and</p>	<p>The feedback and questions from today's meeting have given Barbara the inspiration to look into specifically women in poverty for the next report.</p> <p>Barbara's powerpoint is attached in the email accompanying these minutes to the Commission.</p> <p>Mission is to help people with job training and placement.</p>

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
<p>Sub-Committee Updates</p>	<p>placements: 222 jobs created and 392 placements, all completed in three quarters. We are excited to see the fourth quarter results.</p> <p>Understanding and integrating strategies we use are: <u>Employability</u> – this is the most important aspect. This is the ability to get, keep and maintain a job. <u>Experience</u> – on the job training and internships. <u>Enrichment</u> – Long-term follow-up. The current program has 78 participants, hopefully growing to 90 participants within the next two weeks. 47 of the 78 are receiving some form of state assistance. \$1152 is the monthly average of the 47 who come to the program on state assistance.</p> <p>The mentoring that is provided to these individuals (and therefore, families) is critical. We follow through; making sure resumes are updated, etc.</p> <p>Women in our program have barriers of childcare, housing and transportation. We partner with government agencies and bring industry on as a partner. We service Box Elder, Weber and Davis counties.</p> <p><b>Communications Sub-Committee</b> (Commissioner Wallace): Ann Marie is looking for a co-chair and will be working to re-build the communications sub-committee. She met with the Chamber’s policy team and they shared the following information with her: 1) They have an 82% success rate in getting bills passed; 2) They focus on long-term principles first; 3) They want important issues with slow momentum, not trendy; and 4) Items that have public and political support.</p> <p><b>Research Sub-Committee</b> (Commissioner Robinson): We are in a holding pattern right now and awaiting funding for the focus group research. The full committee lost an economist when Carrie Mayne left the commission and we no longer have that skill set and the expertise of an economist. A discussion continued and the committee agreed that Carrie Mayne should remain on the research sub-committee to help fulfill that need for an economist to advise the committee.</p>	<p>The communications sub-committee needs a co-chair. If anyone has an idea for a person to fill this vacancy, please let Commissioner Wallace know.</p> <p>Ask Carrie Mayne to remain on the research sub-committee.</p>

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
<p>Schedule Next Meeting</p>	<p><b>Public Policy Sub-Committee</b> (Co-Chair Chavez-Houck): While attending the NCSL Conference, Co-Chair Chavez-Houck attended presentations by the Center for American Progress and Moms Rising.</p> <p>Gail will send out a Doodle Poll.</p>	<p>Co-Chair Chavez-Houck has packets to share with the other 2 sub-committees. She will also share a powerpoint presentation when it arrives.</p>