

## **Women's Policy Coalition Meeting**

**December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

In attendance: Carling Ryan (OWAA), Stella Harrison(OWAA), Marie Max(AAUW), Suzanne Moore (DE ERA), Simone (National Coalition 100 Black Women), Michelle Taylor (United Way Delaware), Stephanie Satz (YWCA), Rebecca Cotto (YWCA), Kat Coddle (sp?), Sharice (Women's Council), Morgan Keller (ACLU and Reproductive Justice), Sarah Best (Planned Parenthood of Delaware), Sophia (AAUW), Susan Shirk (Fund for Women), Wasserstein (HADASA), Lynn Howard (Commission for women) Kyle Gay ( Junior League of Women), Marianne (CADV), Jonathan (American Heart Association), Louise Cummings (Women's Workforce Council), Marian Palley (OWAA and Women's Council), Melanie Ross-Levin (OWAA), Kate Parker (Delaware Center for Justice)

Meeting began at 11:31am

### **Logistics of the Coalition:**

Marian opened the meeting at 11:31. After introductions she discussed the scope of the women's policy coalition. Marian declared that we would rotate doing minutes. She posed the question. How often should we meet? Sharice suggested every other month and then meeting more aggressively during legislative session. Lynn Howard wanted to decide group's priorities before we decided how often to meet.

### **Priorities of the coalition:**

Marian asked the group what priorities they think this coalition should focus on. Everyone agreed that our first priority should be passing the ERA. Some other suggestions:

- Susan Shirk: Early Childhood, increase stars funding.
- Marian urged that we should make sure we are focusing our efforts on women.
- Morgan Keller: Maternal Mortality Rates
- Marie Max: Educating parents to educate their kids
- Someone from the Delaware Coalition Against domestic Violence suggested that we focus on where we have shared capacity and go from there.
- Kate Parker: Affordable housing
- Fund for women did listening sessions where people stressed focusing on Housing, Pay Equity, and Early Childhood issues

Everyone agreed that we needed to come up with a way to respond quickly to legislative priorities, and mobilize.

### **Who is missing from the table?**

Louise Cummings opened the conversation about who was missing from the table. Some people suggested that party members be invited and Melanie Ross-Levin stressed that the coalition was non-partisan. Suggestions for who was missing from the table:

- Delaware division of the arts
- Biden Center

- Lerner Center
- PTA
- Delaware Housing Alliance
- Sharice suggested that we need to compile lots of Data and do something similar to the NC100BW report on Black women and girls in DE.
- Kyle Gay suggested we make sure we cross reference organizations with the ones that have supported the ERA.
- Maria from the Latin American Community Center

### **Updates on the ERA**

Suzanne reminded everyone that if your organization wanted to be a part of the ERA that you should reach out to her. The committee hearing is expected to be the first Wednesday of session and the house vote is expected to be the first Thursday of session. Suzanne reminded everyone that they could testify via letter or speaking on the floor.

### **She's On Her Way**

Sharice discussed the She's On Her way award. She explained it was similar to the Delaware Women's Award but for younger women. She encouraged people to nominate.

### **Speed Meeting**

Melanie Ross-Levin announced that the Office of Women's Advocacy and Advancement has set up speed meetings for organizations on March 12 and 14 from 11:30 to 1:30. These meetings would allow organizations time to meet with state legislators for a short period of time (roughly 5 minutes) to talk about their organization. She mentioned that there are a total of 20 spots and they will be prioritizing volunteer-led groups.

### **Wrap Up**

Marian began the conclusion of the meeting. She will be sending out an email to everyone detailing the priorities of the coalition and people can decide whether or not they want to join. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. Folks in the room asked to consider having the meeting in Dover since it is during a legislative session day. Marian also asked that other organizations offer up their space for meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:26pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Sarah Best