

State of Delaware –Delaware Women’s Workforce Council  
Office of Women’s Advancement and Advocacy  
Department of Human Resources

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2019

Present: Melanie Ross Levin-Willington  
\*Louise Cummings-Lewis-Wilmington  
Rita Paige  
Linda Barnett-Wilmington,  
Yvonne Gordon- Wilmington  
Katey Evans  
\*Chairperson

Location: Haslet Building  
122 Martin Luther King Blvd, South  
Dover, DE 19901  
(Via Videoconferencing)  
Carvel State Office Building  
820 N. French Street, 10th Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801

**1. Welcome:**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 11:00am. The Chair thanked everyone for coming. The minutes from the September 19, 2019 meeting were approved, all in favor and none opposed.

**2. Update: Subcommittee on Education and Research**

The Education and Research subcommittee discussed the Voices Project that they are working on. The Delaware Women Commission would like to do a joint meeting with the Delaware Women Workforce Council to create a plan for the listening sessions in the spring. The Maryland Women Commission Director will be invited to come to Delaware in January, if possible. All groups should be distributing the survey. Everyone can go to the Office of Women’s Advancement and Advocacy website to fill out the survey. Committee members were asked to send information about the Voices project to outside committees.

Other potential ideas discussed included putting the survey on the Governor’s website, working with Christiana Care to have their employees take the survey, working with teachers unions, churches, colleges, and other groups in order to distribute the survey more widely.

**3. Update: Subcommittee on Business Outreach**

There is a meeting scheduled with potential partners for developing a Talent Compact here in Delaware.

#### **4. Update: Subcommittee on Public Policy**

The group discussed several potential pieces of legislation relevant to the Council.

#### **5. Updates from OWAA**

The wages for tipped workers have not changed in years and there is a bill to help increase tip workers salary (HB 252). The tipped wage has not increased along with minimum wage. Most low income tipped workers are women and the Department of Labor has raised the minimum wage to \$9.25.

#### **6. Salary Negotiations Workshops**

There is money in OWAA budget to have Salary Negotiations Workshops. AAUW will not provide trainers this year to help with workshops, so Council members were asked members to become trainers for the workshops. The workshops also will have to be set up with locations. Committee members were asked to brainstorm to locations for the salary negotiations workshops and it was suggested that the libraries would be a good place for workshops. Christiana Care, Delaware Tech, Milford or Georgetown library, Del Tech in Georgetown, Route 9 library, Wilmington University and Delaware State University were other suggestions for location. Yvonne Gordon volunteered to be on training subcommittee with the intention to hold a subcommittee meeting before next Workforce Council meeting. This year the training is online and before the workshop starts, the trainers can have a practice run on how they will teach the workshop. There will be two people trained for each session. The training link to those interested in becoming trainers will be sent out by OWAA to council members.

#### **8. Future Meeting Dates**

The Workforce Council Members agreed that the next meeting will be April 6, 2020. The Maryland Women Commission will be invited to Delaware on February 3rd or 10th. The Delaware Women Commission and The Delaware Workforce Council will work together to figure out how to set up listening sessions.

Meeting adjourned 12:30pm, with all in favor and none opposed.