

Advisory Task Force on Expanding the Economic Security of Women

Meeting # 5

September 28, 2021

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Goal: Meeting Goal: Reset; Introduce Senior Advisor on Special Projects and Public Policy, Angelica Klebsch; Co-creation of next steps

Start Time: 5:00 p.m.

End Time: 6:28 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 9/15

Location: Teleconference/Zoom

Voting Members in Attendance

Barbara Battiste
Batala McFarlane
Betty Folliard
Christina Ewig
Connie Smallman
Erin Maye Quade (co-chair)
Kate Perushek
Lulete Mola
Nancy Jost

Public/Guests

Danisa Farley
Lila Eltawely
Luis Lujan
Katie Lim (proxy for Alene Tchourumoff)

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Donna Cassutt (co-chair)
Liz Kramer
Melissa Raphan
Bethany Winkels

Attorney General Staff in Attendance

Donna Cassutt
Liz Kramer
Carly Melin
Dan Murphy
Caitlin Micko
Laura Capuana
Kelly Kemp
Angelica Klebsch

Note: Attendance based on Zoom usernames, some in attendance may have been missed.

Minutes

I. Opening Remarks, Review Agenda, and Meeting Goals.

- Meeting called to order by co-chair Donna Cassutt. (5:00 p.m.)
- Introduced and reviewed agenda.
- Thank you to Carly Melin for stepping in following Sadaf Rahmani's departure.
- Thank you for the articles and emails sent by task force members.
- Thank you to Attorney General's Office staff.
- Acknowledged interest in listening sessions regarding Latinx and Muslim women
- Thank you to Angelica Klebsch, future hire at Attorney General's Office who will lead taskforce to its completion.

II. Introduction of Angelica Klebsch, Incoming Senior Advisor on Special Projects and Public Policy at the Attorney General's Office.

- Angelica introduced herself and her background.

III. Group Discussion- Reflection and Moving Forward

Led by Angelica Klebsch, who solicited feedback on how the task force has operated. What has worked well? What would you like to see going forward?

- Carly Melin: Acknowledged how difficult the virtual platform has been in interacting with members and forming relationships. Meetings have been very transactional given the virtual platform.
- Barbara Battiste: Acknowledged that the virtual format has been difficult in building relationships, welcomed working groups to solve this issue. Recommended that working groups not be limited to topics/themes and have free reign to bring in other topics to encompass intersectionality.
- Betty Folliard: Recommended that all issues discussed by the task force so far be put into the final report. Acknowledged that there are many ways women are held back or pushed aside. Noted that WESA looked at women in the workforce primarily, wanted the task force to focus on women throughout their lifetime. Recommended that BILAWOC women are included and that the task force examines women's economic security holistically. Recommended changing the constitution, which would have a ripple effect on other laws/barriers women face. "We are stronger together."
- Erin Maye Quade (co-chair): Noted that there are various barriers that exist on a small/micro level (data collection barriers as an example), in addition to larger societal/cultural barriers. What are some micro level barriers we can change, in addition to tackling the larger societal issues?
- Christina Ewig: Past meetings focused on listening and learning, not much dialogue about what to do about the issues. The virtual format, plus a large group discussion, is difficult to engage in productive dialogue. Favored small working groups. Noted that task force members are committed to an intersectional analysis on women's economic security. During the first meeting, benefits issues were raised as a huge example of barriers, wants the task force not to lose sight of past issues brought up during meetings.
- Angelica Klebsch: Will examine working groups and review the information discussed during past meetings to determine what information has been missing and how to incorporate it into further meetings.
- Nancy Jost: The task force has talked a lot but hasn't *done* a lot. Dialogue on the issues and recommendations is missing. Wants the perspective of low-income women and those in the care industry (childcare, elderly care, healthcare, caring for others etc.) into task

force's work. Acknowledged that each member has something in their history to bring to the table, but their stories have been lacking thus far, partly due to the virtual setting meetings have occurred. Wants the task force to examine what children are taught from an early age and how that impacts the overall economic security of women.

- Barbara Battiste: Past experiences have indicated that the most important determinant of women's economic security is (1) does they have children, (2) how many children, and (3) at what age/stage in life do they have children? There has been an unspoken understanding in the past that issues regarding women's economic security have not touched reproductive/choice rights/issues due to potential political backlash. Wants the task force to put fear aside and have reproductive rights at the forefront of its recommendations.
- Melissa Raphan: Acknowledged that the task force's goal is a multi-year process and fears that it could be unable to meet its mandate. Asked how the task force is going to best use the remaining months/meetings to meet its goal. Would like a clear understanding as to what the task force is trying to accomplish in the remaining time.
- Angelica Klebsch: Agreed that future meetings and end goals is going to be a priority and topic of conversation at the next meeting.
- Danisa Farley: As a member of the public, indicated that this was the first meeting she has attended. She works for Violence Free Minnesota, interested in the economic security of women, including those that are victims/survivors of domestic/sexual assault and violence. Is willing to help the task force in anyway she can.
- Connie Smallman: Excited to continue the task force's work, would like to bring her trade/construction perspective and experience.
- Caitlin Micko: As a member of the Attorney General's staff, here to help as needed.
- Batala McFarlane: Has had many conversations with working women and the challenges they face, including raising a family. Indicated that women pay penalties in and out of the workplace, including leaving work, which is often frowned upon.
- Katie Lim: Supporting her colleague/task force member Alene Tchourumoff who was unable to attend meeting. Works for the Federal Reserve. Asked how the experience of members can be translated into solutions. What is the scope of the recommendations/goal of the task force? Currently, the scope is very broad. Should we keep it broad or narrow in?
- Lulete Mola: Acknowledged that she is not invested in finishing a final report, more interested in finding solutions to problems that the task force can bring to enact change. Not opposed to narrowing/limiting the scope, but also supports a larger broad scope.
- Kate Perushek: Questioned whether there was enough time. Does not want political feasibility to hold back the task force from recommendations. Wanted the task force to not focus only on those in the workplace, but also older/retired women's economic

security. Wants task force to be as holistic as possible. Does not want to cut short the task force's work just to put out a final product. Wondered whether more time was needed.

- Liz Kramer: Happy to help, Attorney General's staff and ex-officio member.
- Dan Murphy: As a member of the Attorney General's staff, here to help as needed.
- Kelly Kemp: As a member of the Attorney General's staff, here to help as needed.
- Melissa Raphan: Is it possible to take things in a phased approach? We've already lost time, so maybe we need to readjust?
- Betty Folliard: Wants the task force to also not look at political realities/feasibility, wants the task force's group to reflect the values of members. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated problems women already faced, indicated that the task force should move forward with a strong message.
- Angelica Klebsch: Acknowledged interest on more discussion on the ERA.
- Bethany Winkels: Shared that she met with her abortion provider and had a conversation about the current political realities regarding choice. Despite how Minnesota compares to other states, there are still limitations in Minnesota. Wants the task force to look holistically, including reproduction/choice. Does not want the task force's work to reinforce existing system structures. Used MNSURE as an example that no policies under MNSURE cover abortive care. Acknowledged that there are blind spots out there that the task force should not recreate. Wants task force to make recommendations around issues "we are unwilling to accept."
- Angelica Klebsch: Acknowledged that Bethany's story reminds us why issues impact our daily lives. Discussed timeline, acknowledged hearing fears of running out of time. Proposed meeting every two weeks, starting October 20. Proposed the following four main themes to meetings/remainder of task force's work:
 - Vision/big picture conversation, including a recap of what has been worked on and what the focus will be going forward.
 - Crafting solutions and recommendations (policy, legislative, programmatic, administrative etc.).
 - Feasibility.
 - Wrapping things up.
- Discussion around meeting every two weeks. For those that can't attend, Angelica will be transparent about what was discussed during meetings and in-between meetings, what topics/themes come up, and will send out a recap/poll of ideas to keep the conversation fluent.
- The following future meeting dates were proposed and confirmed:

October 20, 2021- 5:00-7:00 p.m.
November 3, 2021- 5:00-7:00 p.m.
November 16, 2021- 5:00-7:00 p.m.
November 30, 2021- 5:00-7:00 p.m.
December 14, 2021- 5:00-7:00 p.m.

IV. Public Testimony.

- Lila Eltawely: Has attended meetings, has tackled with the issue of how much she can share/participate, which has held her back previously. Happy to help the task force going forward.

V. Wrap Up and Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.
Next meeting: October 20, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.