

Advisory Task Force on Expanding the Economic Security of Women

Meeting # 6
October 20, 2021
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Topic: Defining values and targeted challenges

Meeting Goal: Create values statements that frame the positions of the task force. Pull together ideas produced during task force discussions from first five meetings to generate consensus on targeted challenges the task force seeks to address.

Start Time: 5:12 p.m.
End Time: 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 10/15 (*quorum not met at any point during meeting*)

Location: Teleconference/Zoom

Voting Members in Attendance

Barbara Battiste
Betty Folliard
Erin Maye Quade (co-chair)
Kate Perushek
Nancy Jost
Cheniqua Johnson
Alene Tchourumoff
Rep. Samantha Vang
Sen. Dave Senjem
Sadia Tarannum

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Donna Cassutt (co-chair)
Bethany Winkels

Attorney General Staff in Attendance

Donna Cassutt
Dan Murphy
Caitlin Micko
Kelly Kemp
Angelica Klebsch

Public/Guests

Molly Sigel
Comfort Dondo

Minutes

I. Opening Remarks, Review Agenda, Meeting Topics and Goals, Approval of Minutes.

- Meeting called at 5:12 p.m. to order by co-chair Donna Cassutt.
- Seven voting members present at the start of the meeting. Quorum is not met.
- Meeting started for official business; however, no business that requires voting can occur until quorum (10 members present) is met.
- Minutes from previous meeting not reviewed/adopted due to quorum not being met.

II. Public Comment.

No public members present.

III. Whole Group Discussion: Values Statements.

- Angelica started the discussion at 5:16 p.m. Angelica provided a brief recap of her review of previous meeting records, minutes, chats, emails, and other materials to assist in the task force's next steps. Angelica identified six major themes:
 - Women's autonomy: "if law says women don't have autonomy over their own bodies, that shows up everywhere."
 - Women are treated as second class citizens and are excluded from foundational documents (i.e. constitution) resulting in unequal treatment in the court systems, which has a ripple effect into society.
 - The need for more acknowledgement that patchwork for-profit "healthcare industry is really failing women and is disproportional, so in a way that is killing women and killing women of color and that includes everything from reproductive healthcare and abortion access to maternal healthcare and access to mental health-like, it's all of it, and we should be thoughtful about tying those dots together."
 - Power dynamics in the rules of the economy provide little recourse for workers and minimal/no consequences for employers.
 - "Children are not seen in this country (one of the only few wealth nations) as a public good. This is the root of why we don't pay childcare workers a lot, we don't value people who have children, we don't value the time it takes to raise healthy children, we don't create systems to care/educate/feed/be in community with children and leave it up to people to figure it out with a patchwork system."
 - Public opinion follows public policy- put it in law and it will shift society views women.
- Discussion on the six themes identified above:
 - Barbara Battiste: childcare is a building block for everything- broad childcare as public good- expand to care taking, not just children.
 - Nancy Jost: Like the words "economic exploitation" for lifelong exploitation of women.
 - Bethany Winkels: The previous task forces/commissions created and proposed (i.e., missing and murdered indigenous women/missing and murdered African American women) discussed exploitation, which should be focused on here as well. Discussed how to connect women's autonomy with power dynamics; endangerment and exploitation of women, domestic violence, accountability, physical safety, etc.
 - Discussion on whether for-profit healthcare should be expanded to all healthcare.
 - Discussion on whether public policy drives public opinion or whether public opinion drives public policy, or both.

- Discussion on big interest lobbying/outside influence on public policy/controlling public opinion. Discussion on how money influences all of it.
- Angelica led discussion on intersectionality, or whether there are aspects of identity to review/get on the same page with. In particular:
 - Age
 - Race/ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Socioeconomic status/economic mobility
 - Different industries
 - Rural/urban
 - Immigration/asylum status
 - Sexual orientation
 - Faith/religion
 - Parent/non-parent
 - Marital status
 - Education level
 - Different abilities
 - Military/Veteran status?
- Cheniqua Johnson : People don't/can't chose or have control of some of these things, lets keep that in mind.
- Angelica: This is another example of how some people in our group might be viewing intersectionality differently and it's important we all understand it as we move into problem definition and solution generation. Ask members what categories are self selected? Let's sort/categorize these items?
- Discussion about immigration status, refugees, socioeconomic status, other items that could be grouped/organized.

IV. 6:03 p.m. Break.

Reconvened at 6:08

V. Small Group Work: Charge #1—A retrospective review of the WESA of 2014.

- Broke into small groups to discuss Women's Economic Security Act. Groups wrote on Jamboard ideas/shortfalls.
- Reconvened at 6:55 p.m.
- Some contents of WESA were not included in Jamboard, will be added/looked into next time.

VI. Wrap Up and Adjournment.

- Angelica introduced another Jamboard slide which will be shared prior to next meeting.
- Betty Folliard provided a link and information for a U.S. House hearing tomorrow, October 21, 2021, regarding the ERA.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 3, 2021- 5:00-7:00 p.m.