

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
 Illinois Council on Women and Girls  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
 Tuesday, June 4, 2024

A present majority of filled non-ex-officio positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 14 members present				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
<b>Ex-Officio Mem.</b>				
Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton	X		
Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)	Karina Lopez			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. on Aging)	Jennifer Hebel	X		
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)	Dr. Chris Smith	X		
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Children & Family Services)	Marla Courts			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Healthcare & Fam. Services)	Lizzy Whitehorn			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Public Health	Dr. Sameer Vohra			X
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)	Director Jane Flanagan	X		
Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)	Jaclyn Matthews	X		
Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)	Gloria Gibson		X	
Ex-Officio (Community College Board)	Natasha Allan			X
<b>Pub. Mem. (Gov.)</b>				
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Veronica Espina			X
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Alexa Rice	X		
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Nikita Richards			X
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Kaylyn Ahn	X		
<b>Pub. Mem. (House Min.)</b>				
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Theresa Forthofer			X
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Ines Kutlesa		X	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Rhonda Thomas			X
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Vacant			
<b>Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)</b>				
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Kaethe Morris Hoffer			X
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Maaria Mozaffar			X
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	Wendy Pollack		X	
<b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)</b>				

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Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Pamela Althoff			X
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
<b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)</b>				
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Sylvia Collins			X
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Rochelle Crump			X
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Amina Jaffer		X	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Vacant			
<b>Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.</b>				
Rep. of Gov.'s Office	Isabella Hurtado			X
<b>Guest (non-member)</b>				
Guest				
Guest				
Guest				
Guest				

**Office of the Lieutenant Governor Staff Present**

- Deborah Baker, General Counsel & Deputy Chief of Staff
- Eva Shonuga, Staff Attorney
- Paris McConnell, External Affairs & Community Outreach
- Nikki Giancola-Shanks, Policy Director
- Alex Sprinkle, 2024 ISPP Scholar
- Edwidge Labbe, Dunn Fellow

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**Agenda**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of the Agenda for 06/04/24. Approval of Minutes from 09/05/23; 12/12/23; and 03/21/24
- III. Chairperson's Remarks
- IV. New Business / Discussion
  - a. Birth Equity Initiative
  - b. We Thrive
  - c. ICWG Appointments
  - d. Committee Updates
- V. Member Updates
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Adjournment

**Summary**

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls met for its second quarterly meeting of 2024 in both the Chicago and Springfield office. The Council did not establish a quorum during this meeting, but the Lieutenant Governor's Office is exploring options to ensure quorum is established in the future. Additionally, Lieutenant Governor Stratton welcomed The Lieutenant Governor's Office's new Policy Director Nikki Giancola-Shanks to the Council, as well as recognized Edwidge Labbe's contributions to the Council as her time in the James H. Dunn Fellowship comes to a close.

The Lieutenant Governor then announced the passing of the 16<sup>th</sup> balanced budget. This budget shows the administrations' continuing values, including transformative investments in early childhood, K-12 and higher education, health and social service programs, workforce development, restorative justice and violence prevention efforts, and investments in our cultural and natural resources, as well as positive initiatives for women and girls. Lieutenant Governor Stratton then recognized the passing of the Birth Equity Initiative, known as HB5142, in both the House and the Senate, which will create equity throughout pregnancy, postpartum care, and newborn care and allow women to make choices over their birthing options. The Lieutenant Governor reported on the We Thrive initiative, which is working to help women of all ages and backgrounds feel more confident when handling their finances. Lieutenant Governor Stratton moved on to addressing the importance of reappointments and the work of filling vacancies on the Council. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor is working to ensure that these vacancies are filled.

Each subcommittee on the council then gave updates on their work. The Lieutenant Governor first recognized the vacancy for chairperson of the Health and Healthcare committee, as Dr. Vidhya Prakash has stepped down from the Council. The Council then heard updates from the subcommittees of Leadership and Inclusion, Gender-Based Violence, and the Girls Committee, as well as any member updates. Lieutenant Governor Stratton adjourned the meeting while reminding members of the quarterly three meeting taking place on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 4 pm. No votes were taken during this meeting.