

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON
 Illinois Council on Women and Girls
 4th Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday, December 11, 2024

A present majority of filled non-ex-officio positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 12 members present				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Ex-Officio Mem.				
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)	Dorian Manion		X	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Public Health	Ashley Thoele	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.)	Rachel Bolinger	X		
Ex-Officio (Community College Board)	Natasha Allan		X	
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)				
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Veronica Espina			X
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Nikita Richards		X	
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Kaylyn Ahn			X
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)				
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Theresa Forthofer			X
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Ines Kutlesa		X	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)				
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		
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)				

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Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)				
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			
Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.				
Rep. of Gov.'s Office	Isabella Hurtado			X
Guest (non-member)				
Guest	Rebecca Estrada	X		
Guest	Michelle White		X	
Guest				
Guest				

Office of the Lieutenant Governor Staff Present

- Kristina Echols, General Counsel
- Nikki Giancola-Shanks, Policy Director
- Eva Shonuga, Staff Attorney
- Alex Sprinkle, ISPP Scholar
- Maria Peterson, Dunn Fellow

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of the Agenda for 12/11/24 and Minutes from 09/25/24
- III. Chairperson's Remarks
- IV. New Business
 - a. Presentation by Michelle White and Rebecca Estrada of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
 - i. Followed by a Q&A
 - b. Committee Updates
- V. Member Updates
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Adjournment

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Summary

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls met for its fourth quarterly meeting of 2024 in both the Chicago and Springfield office, as well as virtually. Lieutenant Governor Stratton directed Maria Peterson to conduct a roll call to establish quorum. As quorum was established, the Lieutenant Governor entertained a motion to approve the public agenda, which was moved by Ines Kutlesa, seconded by Wendy Pollack, and approved. Lieutenant Governor Stratton then entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Q3 meeting on September 25th, 2024, which was moved by Kaethe Morris Hoffer, seconded by Sylvia Collins, and approved. Lieutenant Governor Stratton then welcomed new member Ashley Thoele of the Department of Public Health to the Council.

The Lt. Governor announced the new cohort of the 2nd annual Girls Lead program, which includes girls from 30 counties across Illinois who will spend time shadowing a woman in leadership in state government. Lieutenant Governor Stratton also announced the new cohort of the 2025 Girls Committee, which serves as a subcommittee of the Council consisting of high school girls across Illinois who will inform the Council on the pressing issues that girls face in Illinois. The Lieutenant Governor then announced the release of the 2024 Illinois Council of Women and Girls report, which highlights the work of the Council over the year.

The Council was joined by Michelle White and Rebecca Estrada of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Michelle and Rebecca presented on the business resources and opportunities that DCEO offers to women in Illinois through their toolkit. The Council then heard updates from the subcommittees of Leadership and Inclusion, Gender-Based Violence, Academic and Economic Opportunity, and the Girls Committee, as well as any member updates. Lieutenant Governor Stratton entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting while reminding members of the first quarterly meeting of 2025 taking place on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 4 pm, which was moved by Jackie Matthews, seconded by Jane Flanagan, and approved.