

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
 Illinois Council on Women and Girls  
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
 December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

<b>A present majority of filled non-ex-officio positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 9 non-ex-officio members present</b>				
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Ex-Officio Mem.</b>				
Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)	<b>Lt. Governor</b> Juliana Stratton		x	
Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)	Lilian Jimenez (rep. Grace Hou)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. on Aging)	Katherine Ostrowski (rep. Paula Basta)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)	Donna Hardy (rep. James Bennett)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Children & Family Services)	Marla Courts (rep. Marc Smith)		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Healthcare & Fam. Services)	<b>Director</b> Theresa Eagleson			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Pub. Health)	<b>Director</b> Ngozi Ezike			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)	Marina Faz-Huppert (rep. Michael Kleinik)		x	
Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)	Jaclyn Matthews (Rep. Carmen Ayala)		x	
Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)	<b>Director</b> Ginger Ostro		x	
Ex-Officio (Community College Board)	Natasha Allan (rep. Brian Durham)			x
<b>Pub. Mem. (Gov.)</b>				
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Candace Coleman		x	
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Dr. Sharon Latiker		x	
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Nikita Richards		x	
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Veronica Espina		x	
<b>Pub. Mem. (House Min.)</b>				
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Ines Kutlesa		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Rhonda Thomas			x
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Theresa Forthofer		x	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	<b>Pending</b>			
<b>Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)</b>				
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)	<b>Pending</b>			
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>				
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	<b>Pending</b>			

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Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vidhya Prakash		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Monique Garcia			x
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Pamela Althoff			x
<b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)</b>				
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Amina Jaffer			x
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Pending			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Rochelle Crump		x	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)	Sylvia Matos-Collins			x
<b>Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.</b>				
Rep. of Gov.'s Office	Dep. Governor Sol Flores			
<b>Guest (non-member)</b>				
Guest, Representative	Representative Anna Moeller			x
Guest, Senator	Senator Jackie Collins			x
Guest	Ibie Hart			x
Guest	Kelly Fair		x	
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Sophie Zerrouki			x
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Jisel Ortiz		x	
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Jasmin Mundi		x	
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Leslie Smith			x
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Eden Soto			x
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Gloria Jen			x
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Ala'a Tamam		x	
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Addison Belhomme		x	
Guest, Girls' Committee Member	Wendy Riley-Washington			x

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM
- b. Roll call taken and quorum established

**II. Approval of Agenda for 2/15/22 and Minutes from 12/8/21**

- a. Agenda
  - i. Motioned by Theresa Forthofer
  - ii. Seconded by Ines Kutlesa
  - iii. All in favor
  - iv. No opposition
  - v. No abstention
- b. Minutes
  - i. Motioned by Kaethe Morris Hoffer
  - ii. Seconded by Rochelle Crump
  - iii. All in favor
  - iv. No opposition
  - v. No abstention

**III. Chairperson's Remarks**

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- a. Lt. Governor Stratton provided an overview of the day's meeting and welcomes Dr. Sharon Latiker who is a newly appointed member of the council.
  - i. Dr. Latiker introduces herself and thanks the Lt. Governor for the opportunity to join the Council on Women & Girls. Dr. Latiker mentions she has an organization "she is me and I am her" and has been at the forefront of working on issues related to women and girls.
- b. Lt. Governor Stratton continues her remarks with an update on the 2021 Annual Report. She thanks the committee chairs for their leadership over the last year and the committee members for their work. Lt. Governor Stratton informs the Council that following a presentation from the Girls' Committee and subcommittee update, time will be reserved to discuss the report and allow council members to share any changes that need to be made.

**IV. New Business**

- a. Presentation from Girls' Committee
  - i. Lt. Governor introduces members from the Girls' Committee: Ala'a Tamam, Jisel Ortiz, and Jasmine Mundi from the Girls' Committee who present their recommendations and research findings pertaining to the recommendations 3 and 4 of the Academic and Economic Opportunity Committee listed in the 2020 Illinois Council on Women and Girls Annual Report.
    1. Lt. Governor Stratton thanks the presenters and the entire Girls' Committee for their hard work and participation in this Council to uplift the voices of young girls.
- b. Committee Updates
  - i. Ines Kutlesa provides an update on the Gender-Based Violence Committee, she notes that the committee is working on developing a Know Your Rights Campaign webinar series to be launched in 2022 and will be meeting with the office in the coming days.
  - ii. Dr. Vidhya Prakash provided an update on the Health and Healthcare Committee, she states she was blown away by the presentation given by the Girls' Committee and her heart swells with pride. Dr. Prakash states since the Health Equity Summit, the committee has met with Veronica Halloway and Mohammed Shahidullah, whom were the co-authors of the Illinois Disparity Health Report. Referring to it as a collaborative effort, Halloway developed a COVID-19 Health Equity Taskforce had its own recommendations that were shared with the committee for their review and these recommendations will be shared with the stakeholders from the Health Equity Summit for their own review and opportunity to weight in.
  - iii. Jackie Matthews provided an update on the Academic and Economic Opportunity Committee; she notes that the Girls' Committee has been working to continue their childcare research. In the weeks prior, the Girls' Committee gave a similar presentation as the one today. Jackie Matthews also notes the next steps will be make connections with the people who advance childcare work like INCCRRA and other key stakeholders. Lastly, the Girl's Committee current membership will serve into mid-summer, while applications for the next class will open in the spring.
  - iv. Nikita Richards provided an update on the Leadership and Inclusion Committee, first thanking Lt. Governor Stratton for her leadership and thanking the Girls' Committee for their presentation. Richards states she was a non-traditional college student who was also a single mother and a recently discharged veteran of the US

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Navy when she first arrived at ISU and there were little to no resources for people like her. Nikita Richards says the presentation delivered today was transformational and she looks forward to seeing where it goes from here. She goes on to provide an overview of the year and how the committee has been working on the Girls' Lead mentorship program and informs the Council she and Maaria are in contact with the office to keep the work moving and launch the program in 2022.

1. Lt. Governor Stratton states that the first picture in the presentation of the Girls' Committee was taken at the first meeting of the Council and brought back many memories. She opens up the meeting for questions on the presentation or to committee chairs regarding updates.
  2. Theresa Forthofer commends the Girls' Committee for their presentation and offers any assistance in terms of inclusion for children with disabilities and developmental delays. She mentioned she knows about the ExceleRate program.
    - a. Lt. Governor thanks Theresa for bringing up the importance of being inclusive and thinking about parents who have children with disabilities, bringing up a perspective not always on the table.
  3. Rochelle Crump thanks the Council for the report and offers thanks to Nikita Richards for sharing her story as a US Navy veteran, she encourages more discussion on student veterans' clubs across American colleges and universities. Those clubs include women veterans who also have children and a lot of them go to college based on their eligibility through their GI bill and we don't capture their voices a lot.
    - a. Lt. Governor Stratton thanks Rochelle Crump for continuing to represent women veterans in these conversations, as well as Nikita Richards. Lt. Governor asks her office to work on scheduling listening sessions with student veteran clubs as she prepares to visit colleges and universities in the state starting 2022.
- c. Report Review
- i. Lt. Governor Stratton begins the report review by informing the Council that the office has been in contact with committee chairs to get their updates for the report.
  - ii. Policy Director Bobby Manis states there are three major changes to the report from last year, noting the inclusion about the Girls' Committee, the gender equity progress report, and the additional section on the Women & Girls' Virtual Summit. He also thanks the committee chairs for providing their feedback and committee updates that aided the drafting and content of the report.
    1. Ines Kutlesa notes she has sent an email with small changes to include language highlight the seven pieces of legislation related to domestic violence signed by the Pritzker Administration.
  - iii. Motion to approve the report made with by Nikita Richards
  - iv. Seconded by Jackie Matthews
  - v. All in favor
  - vi. No opposition
  - vii. No abstention

**V. Member Updates**

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- a. Jackie Matthews announces an update that ISBE will share a press release tomorrow for the STEAM grant awardees. This award is targeted at getting girls more opportunities in STEAM and will go to eight different school districts across the state.
- b. Nikita has seen a decrease in the number of BIPOC girl applicants on the service academy applications, Richards has been working with Sen. Duckworth in encouraging young students to apply for these service academy opportunities and there is a lack of diversity. There are these amazing resources, and she sees an intersection with the work of the Council and asks that members on this Council to review the application and share with students in their networks who might be a good fit.

**VI. Public Comments**

- a. Kelly Fair acknowledges Addison Belhomme because last week Addison lifted the Council as she was talking to Former First Lady Michelle Obama who was visiting Chicago. She asks council members to think about how to use this virtual medium to empower girls and expose them to the work of the Council, especially those who do not see themselves in these kinds of spaces.

**VII. Adjournment**

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to adjourn at 5:13 PM
- b. Motioned by Ines Kutlesa
- c. Seconded by Theresa Forthofer
- d. All in favor
- e. No opposition
- f. No abstentions