



Women’s Council
·Wisconsin·

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wisconsin Women’s Council

Friday, March 1, 2024; 1:00 – 2:30 PM

In-person at the DOA Building, 101 E. Wilson St. in Madison (Yahara Room) and Virtually via MS Teams
Meeting Broadcast on WisconsinEye

Council Members Present:

x	Sen. Melissa Agard	x	Dep. Sec. Patti Epstein	Ex.	Carrie Richard
x	Gabby Aranda-Pino	x	Rachel Fernandez	Ex.	Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez
x	Dr. Jolene Bowman	x	Denise Gaumer-Hutchison, <i>Chair</i>		<i>Vacant</i>
	Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara		Amanda Medina-Roddy, <i>Sec.</i>		<i>Vacant</i>
	Rep. Jodi Emerson	x	Nerissa Nelson, <i>Vice Chair</i>		<i>Vacant</i>

Staff Present: Jenifer Cole, WWC Executive Director; Jana Steinmetz, DOA-DEO Administrator; Richard Rydecki, DOA-DEO Deputy Administrator; Will Terry, Office of Sen. Cabral-Guevara; and MGR Govindarajan, Office of Rep. Emerson

Public Present: Lila Xiong; Meeting broadcast on WisconsinEye

- 1) **Call to Order & Opening Remarks:** Due to technical difficulties, Vice Chair Nelson stepped in for Chair Gaumer Hutchison and called the meeting of the Wisconsin Women’s Council to order at 1:05 p.m.
 - a) Council members provided introductions and welcomed newly appointed member, Sen. Melissa Agard.
- 2) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 1, 2023:** No quorum present. Minutes deferred to next meeting.
- 3) **Presentation on the Status of Wisconsin’s Child Care Industry – Daria Hall, Policy Initiatives Advisor, Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Early Care and Education:** Daria Hall provided a presentation about the status of the child care industry and DCF’s work to help both providers and parents. See attached slides.
- 4) **Director’s Report:**
 - a) Operating Budget Update – J. Cole reported that the Council as at about 55 percent of spend for FY24 and on target for the year. Cole further outlined the operating budget and items that are over- and under-budget. For example, the indirect cost allowance is nearly double the budgeted amount. This is the charge for the Council’s overhead assessment, which covers amounts for department-wide activities like legal services, financial management services, etc. However, cost-savings through initiatives like the completion of the space consolidation and rent reduction help absorb unanticipated increases in other line items.
 - b) Recent and Upcoming Events – J. Cole highlighted recent opportunities to promote the Council through a virtual presentation for Fond du Lac Women’s Fund and a panel event for the Mid-Day Women’s Alliance in Appleton in February. Cole shared some upcoming events and encouraged Council members to attend: March 8 Women’s Leadership Collaborative’s (WWBIC, TEMPO, Women’s Fund of Greater Milwaukee, etc.) International Women’s Day event in Milwaukee; the March 9 AFRICAide/4W Initiative

International Women's Day event in Madison; March 28 WWBIC panel event with Sec. Blumenfeld and DWD in La Crosse; April 10 WI Women in Government Annual Gala in Madison; and April 11-13 UW Gender and Women's Studies Consortium Conference in Madison and online.

5) Updates on Projects and Programs

- a) Kay Clarenbach House Webcast – J. Cole shared that in January, the Madison Common Council designated the Kathryn Clarenbach Residence at 2229 Eton Ridge as Madison Landmark #183. Kay Clarenbach chaired the Commission on Women for 15 years and served on the founding board of the Women's Council. On March 28, the Women's Council is a partner for the Madison Trust's virtual event featuring local historian Gary Tipler to recognize Clarenbach's important contributions to the women's movement and Council history.
- b) April 5 Council Meeting – Chair Gaumer Hutchison promoted the next in-person Council meeting to be held on April 5 in Green Bay. The meeting will feature a panel of women leaders to discuss the status of women in the trades, labor, and apprenticeship programs.
- c) Money Smart Week Webinars – J. Cole reported on the planning of the Council hosted webinars for Money Smart Wisconsin Week, April 6-13. The webinars will focus on women's financial empowerment, issues of fraud, and economic security in retirement and aging.
- d) MMIWG Day of Awareness – R. Fernandez announced the 2024 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Day of Awareness on May 7 at the State Capitol. Event planning is underway for this important day. The program will be similar to past events and will focus on how the issue does not seem to be improving and further awareness and action is needed to end the endemic.
- e) Status of Women Research and Report – G. Aranda-Pino shared that the Institute for Women's Policy Research is still working on the project proposal for the Steering Committee. A proposal is now expected by the end of March.
- f) Bylaws Development – N. Nelson & P. Epstein reported that their workgroup is making progress on developing new bylaws for the Council. The workgroup has requested some guidance from DOA's Legal Services team and next steps on the bylaws are pending this guidance.

6) Closing Remarks and Adjournment – Chair Gaumer Hutchison adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenifer Cole
Executive Director, Wisconsin Women's Council

Minutes were approved at the April 5, 2024 meeting of the Council