
**WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: meet.google.com/wnn-zbfm-wch

Present:	Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace Commissioner Brandie Morris Representative Elizabeth Weight Representative Ann Millner Commissioner Karen Leonardi Representative Karianne Lisonbee Commissioner Kristen Floyd Co-Chair Senator Luz Escamilla Co-Chair Commissioner Melissa Freigang Commissioner Morgan Lyon Cotti	Excused:	Commissioner Sarah Brenna
		Absent:	N/A
		Other Attendees:	Dr. Susan Madsen Kristen Schulz Madison Huber Marin Christensen

Quorum: Yes

Support Staff: Mahal Roesser, Administrative Assistant

1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair, Senator Escamilla called to order the Women in the Economy Commission (WIEC) virtual meeting on September 28, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. and excused Commissioner Sarah Brenna.

A. Co-Chair, Senator Escamilla called for introductions from attending Commissioners who described their roles and qualifications:

- i. Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace
- ii. Commissioner Brandie Morris
- iii. Representative Elizabeth Weight
- iv. Representative Ann Millner
- v. Commissioner Karen Leonardi
- vi. Representative Karianne Lisonbee
- vii. Commissioner Kristen Floyd
- viii. **Co-Chair** Senator Luz Escamilla
- ix. **Co-Chair** Commissioner Melissa Freigang
- x. Commissioner Morgan Lyon Cotti

B. Members of the Community

- i. Dr. Susan Madsen (Utah Women & Leadership Project)
- ii. Coordinator Kristen Schulz (Early Childhood Alliance)
- iii. Associate Director Marin Christensen (Utah Women & Leadership Project)

C. Support Staff

- i. Administrative Assistant Mahal Roesser (Department of Workforce Services)
- ii. Intern Madison Huber (University of Utah)

2. Opening Business

Co-Chair Senator Escamilla led opening business discussions for the WIEC.

A. Purpose of WIEC

Co-Chair Senator Escamilla read the purpose statement of the WIEC.

B. Approval of the May 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Senator Escamilla called for a motion to approve the May 25, 2021 WIEC meeting minutes.

Motion: Co-Chair Senator Escamilla

Second: Representative Millner

Approve: All

Oppose: None

C. Membership Updates

- i. Intern Madison Huber described efforts on current projects to support and promote the WIEC's social media presence.
- ii. Associate Director Marin Christensen discussed past work experiences and relayed intent to serve as co-chair on the WIEC Communications Subcommittee.

D. Approval to Appoint Marin Christensen as Co-Chair of the Communications Subcommittee.

Co-Chair Senator Escamilla called for a motion to approve Marin Christensen as Co-Chair of the Communications Subcommittee.

Motion: Representative Millner

Second:

Approve: All

Oppose: None

3. Subcommittee Updates

A. Policy Meeting

Representative Weight shared updates from the Policy Subcommittee and discussed its working approach in relation to the WIEC Purpose Statement, One Utah Roadmap, Utah Women & Leadership Project (UWLP), and current legislation.

- i. Representative Weight discussed the [UWLP Community Asset Map](#) and efforts to develop criteria for future meeting guests and topics for consideration.
- ii. Co-Chair Senator Escamilla recommended reviewing past WIEC strategic planning efforts and outcomes.
- iii. Dr. Madsen clarified the objectives of the UWLP and cited the [UWLP White Paper Series](#) as a means to inform legislators and advocates on specific issues impacting the women of Utah.
- iv. Representative Millner discussed the [New Unified Economic Opportunity Commission](#) and recommended connecting with this subgroup for information about its current efforts.

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- v. Co-Chair Commissioner Freigang recommended inviting former Commissioner and Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson and guest representatives from the Office of Child Care, Department of Workforce Services, and the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs to future WIEC meetings.
- B. Communications Meeting
Co-Chair Commissioner Freigang shared updates from the Communications Subcommittee about the [DWS-WIEC Partner Website](#), DWS-WIEC Annual Report, and current projects led by intern Madison Huber.
- i. **Co-Chair Commissioner Freigang requested that the Commissioners follow, tag, and promote the new WIEC [Instagram \(@utah_wiec\)](#) and [Twitter \(@Utah_wiec\)](#) social media handles.**
- C. Research Meeting
Co-Chair Commissioner Freigang called for a motion to approve Commissioner Lyon Cotti as Chair of the Research Subcommittee.
Motion: Co-Chair Commissioner Freigang
Second: Co-Chair Senator Escamilla
Approve: All
Oppose: None
- D. Executive Meeting - Deferred
- 4. Public Comment**
Co-Chair Senator Escamilla opened the meeting for public comment.
- A. Kristen Schulz encouraged the WIEC to review mixed families data, discussed the current state of the childcare industry, and reported on challenges related to industry wages and salary funding.
- i. Co-Chair Senator Escamilla inquired about the potential benefit of bonuses.
- ii. Kristen Schulz responded and clarified that one-time boosts may provide temporary benefits.
- iii. Co-Chair Senator Escamilla described possible approaches and inquired about parameters for bonuses within the childcare industry.
- iv. Kristen Schulz cited the Office of Child Care's criteria for licensed center-based practices.
- B. Co-Chair Commissioner Freigang discussed the issue of childcare deserts and suggested getting feedback from guest representatives on this topic.
- C. Commissioner Floyd shared industry insights as the former Director of the Office of Child Care and inquired about the benefits of providing to industry workers to combat low wages, high turnover, and low facility reimbursement rates.
- D. Kristen Schulz cited language from the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \(ARPA\)](#).
- 5. New Business**
- A. Topic Based Agendas - Deferred
- B. Upcoming Meetings
November 23, 2021 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



6. Adjournment

Co-Chair Melissa Freigang called for a motion to adjourn the WIEC meeting on September 28, 2021.

Motion: Co-Chair Melissa Freigang

Second: Co-Chair Senator Escamilla

Approve: All

Oppose: None

Action Items

1. Send recommended language to Co-Chair Senator Escamilla for invitations to legislators regarding WIEC meetings. attendance.
Assigned to: Representative Weight
Due By: 10/31/21
2. Send invitation letters to legislators starting in October to attend future WIEC meetings.
Assigned to: Mahal Roesser; Co-Chair Melissa Freigang
Due By: TBD