

**WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021

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

Location: www.zoomgov.com/j/16185611167

Commissioners Present:	Commissioner Sarah Brenna Co-Chair , Commissioner Melissa Freigang Commissioner Judy Barnett Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace Senator Ann Millner Representative Elizabeth Weight Commissioner Karen Leonardi Co-Chair , Senator Luz Escamilla	Excused:	N/A
Quorum:	Yes	Absent:	Karianne Lisonbee
Support Staff:	Mahal Roesser, Board Administrative Assistant Bethany Hyatt, Public Information Officer	Other Attendees:	Dr. Susan Madsen

1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair, Senator Escamilla called to order the Women in the Economy Commission (WIEC) virtual meeting on March 23, 2021 at 2:03 p.m.

- A. Director Sarah Brenna introduced herself and Mahal Roesser as the new Board Administrative Assistant supporting the WIEC.
- B. Co-Chair, Senator Luz Escamilla called for introductions from the Commissioners who described their roles and qualifications:
 - i. Commissioner Karen Leonardi
 - ii. Senator Ann Millner
 - iii. Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace
 - iv. Representative Elizabeth Weight
 - v. Co-Chair Melissa Freigang
 - vi. Commissioner Judy Barnett
 - vii. Public Information Officer Bethany Hyatt

2. Opening Business

Co-Chair Melissa Freigang read the purpose of the WIEC and summarized membership vacancies, qualifications needed, and protocols for filling vacancies.

A. Roster Review

- i. Co-Chair Melissa Freigang discussed the new process for handling resignations from the Commission, described each Commissioner's ability to remain in that position until someone is appointed through the nomination process, and summarized roster changes and vacancies.
- ii. **Review eligibility of Commissioner Karen Leonardi due to changes in employer.**
- iii. **Submit recommendations for Jennifer Robinsons replacement to Co-Chair Melissa Freigang for review with Co-Chair, Senator Luz Escamilla.**
- iv. Co-Chair Melissa Freigang announced that Judy Barnett resigned, but will remain active in her WIEC seat under the new process.

B. Approval of the January 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair, Senator Luz Escamilla called for a motion to approve the January 27, 2021 WIEC meeting minutes.

Motion: Director Sarah Brenna

Second: Co-Chair Melissa Freigang

Approve: All

Oppose: None

3. **Review and Discuss January Legislative Presentations**

Co-Chair Melissa Freigang summarized the legislative session and opened the floor for discussion.

- A. Melissa Freigang described requirements of the WIEC and the invitation process used to garner participation during the legislative session.
- B. Commissioners shared feedback about presentations, quality of virtual meetings, public interaction, timeline of preparations, and bills considered during the legislative session.
- A. Director Sarah Brenna recommended methods to track legislative bills, assignments, and proposed designating subcommittees to coordinate bills next year.

4. **Women SpeakUp! Planning and Next Steps**

Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace described the purpose of the listening sessions, plans for the next two events, and summarized takeaways from the Women Speak Up! listening session on January 27, 2021.

- A. The next listening session will be held electronically during the WIEC meeting on May 25, 2021 and targets Southern and Eastern Utah regions.
- B. Commissioners discussed strategies for increasing survey participation, including social media, word of mouth, and distribution to Women's organizations.
 - i. **Contact Pat Jones (Women's Leadership Institute) for distribution lists.**
 - ii. **Coordinate statewide distribution of event materials with Dr. Susan Madsen and Commissioner Judy Barnett.**
 - iii. **Coordinate logistics of electronic participation with Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace.**
 - iv. **Determine the listening session start time on May 25, 2021 between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

5. Other/Public Comment

Board Administrative Assistant Mahal Roesser shared a pending publication request to post on the WIEC website with the Commission for review and approval.

A. The Commission discussed guidelines and criteria for resources posted on the WIEC website and WIEC social media.

B. The Communications Subcommittee will handle publication requests, develop a recommendation for a posting policy and procedure on the WIEC and report back to the Commission.

i. **Forward all resource and publication requests to Commissioner Judy Barnett and Co-Chair Melissa Freigang until further notice.**

C. WIEC Subcommittees

Co-Chair Melissa Freigang discussed the changes to and status of the WIEC subcommittees.

i. Policy Subcommittee - chaired by Commissioner Elizabeth Weight.

ii. Communications Subcommittee - chaired by Commissioner Judy Barnett.

iii. Research Subcommittee - chair to remain vacant until subcommittee seats are filled.

iv. WIEC Subcommittees to meet during off months.

v. **Contact Co-Chair Melissa Freigang with recommendations of public individuals who may be interested in serving on a WIEC subcommittee.**

6. Presentation of Impacts on Women in the Economy

Dr. Susan Madsen presented research and data regarding the COVID-19 impacts on women in the economy, discussed the research team roles & responsibilities, next steps, research methods used, and demographics related to this study.

A. [Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute \(March 2021\) COVID-19 Impacts by Gender. *Economic Insights*](#)

B. Dr. Susan Madsen responded to questions from the Commissioners and provided clarifying information.

i. Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace asked if survey participants were interested in ways to help improve stressors.

ii. Co-Chair Melissa Freigang inquired about correlating or including data related to primary caregiving in this study.

iii. Commissioner Elizabeth Weight commented on income, stress, and the homeless youth population in Davis County.

iv. **Commissioners to send follow-up questions or feedback to Dr. Madsen at susan.madsen@usu.edu.**

7. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Adjournment

Co-Chair, Melissa Freigang called for a motion to adjourn the Women in the Economy Commission (WIEC) virtual meeting on March 23, 2021 at 4:09 p.m.

Motion: Sarah Brenna

Approve: All
Oppose: None

Action Items

1. Review eligibility of Commissioner Karen Leonardi due to changes in employer.
Assigned to: Co-Chairs
Due By: 5/25/21
2. Submit recommendations for Jennifer Robinson's seat to Co-Chair Melissa Freigang.
Assigned to: Commissioners
Due By: 5/25/21
3. Contact Pat Jones (Women's Leadership Institute) about survey distribution lists and cc: Co-Chair Melissa Freigang on correspondence.
Assigned to: Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace
Due By: TBD
4. Coordinate statewide distribution of event materials with Dr. Susan Madsen and Commissioner Judy Barnett.
Assigned to: Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace
Due By: 5/25/21
5. Coordinate logistics of electronic participation with Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace
Assigned to: Board Admin Mahal Roesser
Due By: 5/25/21
6. Determine the listening session start time on May 25, 2021.
Assigned to: Commissioner Ann Marie Wallace
Due By: ASAP
7. Develop a policy & procedure recommendation for posting on the WIEC website and report back to the Commission.
Assigned to: Commissioner Judy Barnett
Due By: TBD
8. Forward all resource and publication requests to Commissioner Judy Barnett and Co-Chair Melissa Freigang until further notice.
Assigned to: Board Admin Mahal Roesser
Due By: Ongoing
9. Contact Co-Chair Melissa Freigang with recommendations of public individuals who may be interested in serving on a WIEC subcommittee.
Assigned to: Commissioners
Due By: Ongoing
10. Send follow-up questions or feedback regarding the COVID-19 Impacts on Women in the Economy presentation to Dr. Madsen at susan.madsen@usu.edu and cc: Co-Chair Melissa Freigang on correspondence.
Assigned to: Commissioners
Due By: Ongoing

