



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WOMEN AND GIRLS INITIATIVE
GOVERNING COUNCIL**

Monday, February 22, 2021

1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Council Members, staff and the public attended meeting via Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing or by phone.

Roll Call and Review of Meeting Logistics -- Nicole Bryant (21-0824)

Chair Bea Stotzer called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

Nicole Bryant, Chief Executive Office (CEO) Analyst, called the roll. Among those present were Women and Girls Initiative (WGI) Governing Council staff: Abbe Land, Executive Director, Porsha Potts, Senior Sec. III, and Nicole Bryant. Also, in attendance were Imelda Padilla, WGI Community Engagement and Outreach Consultant, Jackie Filla, Ph.D., WGI Research Consultant, and Marissa Ayala, Sheila Kuehl Policy Fellowship.

Present: Chair Bea Stotzer, Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, Kafi Blumenfield, Araceli Campos, Anita DeFrantz, Perla Hernandez-Trumkul, Chris Hershey, Sandra Mendoza, Alice S. Petrossian, Jennifer Quan, Dr. Carmen Schaye, Sharon Shelton, Kathy Spillar and Jane Templin

Absent: Angela Underwood-Jacobs

1. Chair Report -- Bea Stotzer (21-0825)

Chair Stotzer's provided an update of the activities and upcoming presentations of the WGI as follows:

- **The University of Southern California (USC) Economic Resiliency Study will submit its first draft in a few weeks;**
- **On behalf on the Governing Council, Chair Stotzer and Executive Director Abbe Land will provide a progress report to the Los Angeles County Commission for Women (LACCW) at their virtual meeting of California women's commissions on February 23, 2021;**

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- The WGI continues its work with the Department of Human Resources in preparing the next Employee Climate Survey and will provide a progress report in April or May 2021;
 - In March 2021, the Sheriff's Ad Hoc Committee may report on the recommendations established from the report; "Increasing Recruitment and Retention in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department"; and
 - The WGI staff continues to work with County Counsel, the Los Angeles County Human Relation Commission and LACCW on the implementation of CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Chair Stotzer mentioned the Governing Council is entering a new quarter and requested Members to offer any subjects, departments or issues of interest for discussion at an upcoming meeting. Also, cited was a presentation updating the Governing Council on the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) as the WGI works closely with the Chief Information Office (CIO) during the pilot over the next three months. Executive Director Land will provide updates on the GIA pilot which will become another tool the Departments use to track the impact of gender in their workforce, mission, programs and leadership.

- Member Sandra Mendoza requested inviting the Los Angeles County Office of Education, (LACOE) to see how continuation schools fared this past year.
- Member Perla Hernandez-Trumkul is very interested in foreshadowing the coming years in regard to women and girls in all the areas covered by the Governing Council's Ad Hoc Committees. Specifically, to anticipate the economic hardships that may transpire within the County. She suggested inviting guest speakers from the Board Offices, as well as other organizations to hear what they are expecting, what should we start noticing; and hold conversations regarding mental health and domestic violence. She is very interested in hearing what others are envisioning for the future, specifically, for families, mothers, and children.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

2. Approval of Minutes January 25, 2021 (21-0826)

On motion of Member Jane Templin, seconded by Anita DeFrantz and unanimously carried by the following vote, the WGI approved the meeting minutes from January 25, 2021.

Ayes: 14 - Chair Bea Stotzer, Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, Kafi Blumenfield, Araceli Campos, Anita DeFrantz, Perla Hernandez-Trumkul, Chris Hershey, Sandra Mendoza, Alice S. Petrossian, Jennifer Quan, Dr. Carmen Schaye, Sharon Shelton, Kathy Spillar and Jane Templin

Absent: 1 - Angela Underwood-Jacobs

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. PRESENTATIONS

3. Antonia Jimenez, Director Department of Public Social Services
Discussion on measuring impact and policy recommendations (21-0827)

Chair Stotzer was honored to introduce Antonia Jiménez, Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) who was appointed director in 2018. Ms. Jiménez currently manages almost 14,000 employees with a \$4 billion budget at the largest social service agency in the United States. With 30 years of experience as a Senior Executive from the State of Massachusetts as a Chief Administrative Officer and as a member of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services; she has an incredible amount of public and private experience. Ms. Jiménez presentation will address how DPSS is measuring its impact on the lives of women and children in Los Angeles County (County).

Ms. Jiménez presentation of graphic charts highlighted Fiscal Year 2021-22 Caseload projections (see Supporting Document) and the effects the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid 19) had on the CalWORKs, General Relief, In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and CalFresh programs.

CalWORKs Program

Ms. Jiménez reported the CalWORKs program supports families and on July 18, 2020, over 125,000 families utilized CalWORKs services, however, by July 20, 2020 the graph dipped displaying a loss of almost 25,000 families due to their income increasing beyond the threshold, although it is not enough to make the families financially stable. She demonstrated how the chart levels slowly increased because DPSS worked with the State of California to raise CalWORKs earned income levels for families that reflected higher than the federal governments poverty level indicators. Also, the State of California allowed DPSS to disregard 50% of their income to ensure families retain services offered in the program such as transportation, domestic violence, and substance abuse assistance.

Another indicator for the drastic dip was the minimum wage increase of \$1.00 impacting 4,000 families which was heartbreaking, overall, she expected a 10% increase in the CalWORKs program following the shortfall.

General Relief

Ms. Jiménez reported the General Relief (GR) Program is geared towards single adults and in July 2020 the graph indicated a spike to over 110,000 adults entering the program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, after the pandemic decline, in October 2020, DPSS began the termination process especially for those who were receiving unemployment benefits. The GR Program is generally considered a last resort for the enrollees.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Ms. Jiménez further reported that largely In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) caseload steadily increases 2% per year except for the Fourth Supervisorial District that increases annually by 3%.

CalFresh Program

Ms. Jiménez reported the CalFresh Program, federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), saw a 70% increase in enrollment which was good since food insecurity was identified as a significant struggle for families. A contributing factor to the increase was an informational campaign that DPSS delivered informing families and individuals of the CalFresh Program. In June 2020, the State of California, being the last to join, allowed individuals receiving Social Security Insurance (SSI) to qualify for additional funds for food which contributed to approximately 250,000 additional enrollees. A barrier that hampered enrollment in CalFresh was disqualifying individuals that received unemployment benefits because it was counted as earned income. Since the removal of that stipulation the trajectory will be even greater.

In response to Member Carmen Schaye's question, Ms. Jiménez stated in 2018, low enrollment into the CalFresh Program had several determining factors: individuals receiving SSI were given only a \$10 monthly food supplemental payment; the stigma of being on welfare deterred potential enrollees from joining the program; and the guidelines for students to enroll were so complicated it deterred students from applying for the program. Presently, the Federal Government temporarily relaxed their requirements for students during the COVID-19 pandemic starting in the next few months and individuals on SSI can receive the full benefit package. DPSS is requesting the Federal Government permanently relax

CalFresh requirements for students.

The Biggest Challenges

Ms. Jiménez stated CalWORKs families are approximately 80% women and head of household and 20% men. Evenly divided are the 200,000 children 50% are girls and the remaining 50% are boys. The challenge is their monthly earnings; once a family's earnings exceed \$2400 the family becomes ineligible to participate in the CalWORKs even though families need at least \$4500 a month to modestly live in Los Angeles County. To meet the challenge, Ms. Jiménez is working with the California Federal Reserve to establish a program that will keep the ineligible participants in CalWORKs longer and to the point of self-sufficiency replicating the Massachusetts Federal Reserve efforts. In Massachusetts, the program demonstrated individuals who stayed in the program longer eventually reciprocated by becoming financially stable taxpayers. If accepted in California, it will mean DPSS will impart economic mobility skills and aid to families until it is no longer necessary. Therefore, DPSS is applying for a grant from the County's Productivity Investment Fund to hire an Economist, knowledgeable about taxes and revenue streams to convey the long-term benefit of prolonging eligibility in the CalWORKs program to the California Federal Reserve.

Another challenge, Ms. Jiménez reported DPSS had the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) train approximately 80 volunteers on how to file taxes for DPSS clientele, taking advantage of the Federal Government Earned Income Tax Credit of \$3600 per child. However, it becomes a challenge when a parent with two kids receives \$3600 in one lump sum but for the other child a \$300 per month payment that is credited as earned income which then reduces their benefits. She concluded that DPSS is working hard with the State of California and the Federal Government for the income tax credit not to be counted upon itself.

4. Phil Ansell, Director Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative
Discussion on measuring impact and policy recommendations (21-0828)

Chair Stotzer introduced Phil Ansell, Director of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative in the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and Phil was Deputy Director of the Department of Public Social Services. He has an incredible passion and thoughtfulness for providing and designing programs that meet the family's greatest need. His insight and experiences are invaluable.

Mr. Ansell announced he is retiring on March 31, 2021. He thanked Chair

Stotzer for her kind remarks and Executive Director Land for her assistance with today's presentation. He began his PowerPoint presentation (see Supporting Document) by stating Los Angeles County's last homeless count in January 2020 was about 66,000 people on any given night and about 3/4 of the population were unsheltered. The systemic homeless crisis is further overwhelmed by the over half a million renter households in the County spending more than 50% of their income to pay rent, and are by definition precariously housed where a single incident like a car breaking down, relationship break up, an illness, pending job or job loss can cause homelessness. In 2019, the Homeless Services system helped almost 23,000 people move from homelessness into permanent housing. That number doubled in 2015, yet the population continues to grow because more people fall into homelessness each year.

Mr. Ansell reported the County is in a unique position, although, not obligated to assume the responsibility for homelessness in August 2015, the County accepted that responsibility. Mr. Ansell reviewed the history of the Homeless Initiative, discussed the acquired comprehensive strategies and that the voters approved in March 2017, Measure H. A one quarter cent sales tax was legally dedicated to preventing and combatting homelessness and is projected to generate \$355,000,000 annually for 10 years. Primarily, the Department of Health Services is the service provider but there are nine County departments administering Measure H funds, mostly to contracted community-based providers.

Mr. Ansell mentioned in the first 39 months of funding services and rental subsidies (July 2017 through September 2020) the County helped over 125,000 families and individuals find permanent and interim housing. In addition, with Measure H funds, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Project Roomkey, and the State of California funded program, Project Homekey successfully slowed the spread of COVID-19 in the homeless communities, by providing over 4,000 hotel and motel rooms for the homeless and for quarantining those that contracted COVID-19. Also, with Project Homekey funds, the County was able to purchase 10 motels adding 850 rooms in a period of three months. With the City of Los Angeles using the same funding source to purchase a similar amount of housing. As he concluded, he encouraged the Governing Council to think of ways to institutionalize, leverage and deepen the associated cultural changes within the County i.e. all women Board, female CEO, and other most recent cultural changes in a way in which the County continues to evolve and provides opportunities for the advancements of women and girls going forward.

In response to Chair Stotzer question, Mr. Ansell stated Los Angeles County 2020 homeless count indicated 32% of the homeless were

women, a substantial minority and historically, the homeless services system for single adults is oriented towards men. With the increase in women experiencing homelessness, the Downtown Women's Center, and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LASHA) in pursuant to action by the Board will conduct a study on unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness. Also, in 2020, the count for homeless families was much lower because CalWORKs provides a lot of resources to address homeless families. Overall, there are far and few services for single adults. He stated for the homeless population overall two things are needed to eradicate homelessness more resources for rental subsidies and services. Measure H has proven the more resources the more people are out of homelessness. A study conducted by LASHA in January 2020 found that an estimated gap of \$500,000,000 a year, more than double funds provided by Measure H, is necessary to eradicate homelessness. The State of California and the County of Los Angeles are co-sponsoring a bill which would, if enacted, generate \$2 billion a year statewide in new revenue with a policy that increases the supply of affordable housing subsidies. However, the bigger impact will be changes in how the housing market functions and zoning requirements permitting increase in affordable housing, limiting rent increases and preventing unjust evictions are the most important actions to take to reduce homelessness.

Vice Chair Greuel and Chair Stotzer, thanked Mr. Ansell and Ms. Jimenez for the wonderful perspectives the Governing Council should consider for our recommendations moving forward and more importantly what are the challenges that we still face in term of gathering information.

III. REPORTS, UPDATES & POSSIBLE ACTIONS

5. Community Engagement Ad Hoc (Sharon Shelton)
Update on Virtual Town Hall Report (21-0829)

Member Sharon Shelton thanked the Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee Members and staff for constructing a phenomenal production of town hall meetings and the report that really describes and brings together all the virtual town halls. The Committee's final edits, recommendations, and enhancements to the report is underway anticipating the Governing Council assessment at March 22, 2021 meeting. She stated the Committee is very excited about the report that not only captures the virtual town halls but includes action-oriented items. Marissa Ayala, Sheila Kuehl Policy Fellowship, is creating a tracking document for proposed action items that effectively direct County Departments to yield outcomes.

6. WGI Final Report Ad Hoc (Chris Hershey) (21-0830)

Member Chris Hershey reported the Final Report Ad Hoc Committee intends to hold its first meeting in March 2021 and informed the Governing Council to expect to receive a questionnaire at some point in the near future to ensure everyone's thoughts are being considered in the final report to the Board of Supervisors.

7. At-Promise Girls Ad Hoc (Anita DeFrantz) (21-0831)

Member Anita DeFrantz, reported on the At Promise Girls Ad Hoc Committee and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Master of Public Policy students are finalizing their questionnaire for the policy solutions study on the school to prison pipeline. Ms. Ayala forwarded the questionnaire, that will be the template used to obtain responses from various local school districts, for the Committee to review and for possible recommendations. Member DeFrantz stated she is expecting the final report by April 15, 2021, which is a hard deadline set by UCLA.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

8. Announcements (21-0832)

Executive Director Abbe Land reported on February 9, 2021, the Board of Supervisors, approved a motion brought forward by Hilda Solis, instructing the Department of Workforce Development Aging and Community Services (WDACS) and other stakeholder such as the WGI to convene and return to the Board in 45 days with a Pathways for Economic Resiliency Implementation Plan. The Pathways for Economic Resiliency report provided information on available jobs, jobs lost, County programs that assist individuals to rejoin or join the workforce, and training opportunities. She expects the Resiliency Study conducted by the University of Southern California on behalf of the Governing Council will be a significant addition to WDACS's report.

Executive Director Land also reminded the Governing Council of its goal to have the economic scorecard annually include gender information. She indicated this year's economic scorecard will contain some gender information and will be released sometime in April 2021. She further stated, hopefully, at the March 22, 2021 meeting, she will report on the indicators used to collect the data on gender and what is the plan/goal for the following year.

Executive Director Land further reported County Department Heads have

annual performance goals called MAPP Goals. Last year, included in their MAPP Goals, each Department was to visibly ensure the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment was celebrated. This year, for their MAPP Goals, Department Heads must provide at least one strategy that strengthens the department's capacity to collect and track data based on gender. Several departments have already started gathering information and Executive Director Land looks forward to presenting all the strategies departments are using at the end of the fiscal year.

Public Comment

9. Public Comment (21-0833)

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

10. Adjourn to - Monday, March 22, 2021 1:00p.m. (21-0834)

On motion of Member Jane Templin, seconded by Member Anita DeFrantz, and unanimously carried by the following vote, the Governing Council approved the meeting adjournment at 2:32 p.m. for a Regular Meeting scheduled for March 22, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Ayes: 14 - Chair Bea Stotzer, Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, Kafi Blumenfield, Araceli Campos, Anita DeFrantz, Perla Hernandez-Trumkul, Chris Hershey, Sandra Mendoza, Alice S. Petrossian, Jennifer Quan, Dr. Carmen Schaye, Sharon Shelton, Kathy Spillar and Jane Templin

Absent: 1 - Angela Underwood-Jacobs