

Commission on Race & Gender Fairness

Friday May 8, 2020, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Minutes

1. Present via TEAMS: Chair Myra Selby, Vice Chair Jane Seigel, Ryan Gardner, Brenda Roper, Judie Conley, Jewell Harris, Darcie Fawcett, James Fox, Andy Klein, Rasul Mowatt, Shana Stump, Sheila Moss, Maria Wildridge. Guest: Brenda Rodeheffer, Staff: Lun Pieper
2. Chair welcomed members and gave time for check-in.
3. Each member gave updates on how the pandemic impacts them personally and professionally as it applies to race and gender issues.
4. Members discussed racial and societal divide and lack of equity being manifested by COVID-19. Members next discussed what the Commission can do to serve the state's legal and judicial equity works. Although race and equity issues have been discussed, gender specific issues have not received much attention. For example, intimate violence and child abuse issues while shelter in place and efforts to not only help victims out of the abuse home, but to provide shelter to protect from both violence and virus. France has designated hotels for survivor of abuse if they call the helpline or court system. Here, there seem to be different orders in different cities and states, impacting the treatment of people based on geographical location. For example, in the East Moline area in Illinois, residents were reportedly asked to tip their masks off when entering businesses, potentially creating racial profiling instances as well as countering the fight against spreading of COVID-19 by having to handle the masks. Also, in New York's "east village" where most of the population are black and brown, there was more police presence and arrest. But in New York's "west village," there are massive crowd in parks and police handing out masks. Out of 40 arrest for violating social distance, 35 were black.
5. Members also discussed how the Commission needs to work in collaboration across groups and entities to create broader partnerships such as hotel associations and shelters in addition to social services. Members discussed bringing in guest speakers for the next meeting to talk on topics about law enforcement and victim advocacy's responses to the pandemic.
6. Commission assigned 2 members to identify and contact potential speakers for the next meeting for members to get a better understanding of the impact of COVID 19. Maria will contact ICADV and Judie will contact Justice Sullivan's group.

7. At the meeting, members will discuss what dates and formats members will continue to meet.
Lun will send doodle poll to determine the best date/time for next month's meeting.
8. Meeting adjourned at 1:08pm.