



WASHINGTON STATE WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Plenary Meeting Minutes | November 4, 2022
2:00pm - 3:00pm | Sequim, WA

Attendees:

- Regina Malveaux - Executive Director
- Rituja Indapure - Commission Chair
- Quinn Dalan - Commission Secretary
- Anna Franklin - Commissioner
- Riddhi Mukhopadhyay - Commissioner
- Vicki Lowe - Commissioner
- Kasi Perriera - Commissioner
- Ann Simons - Commissioner
- Kate Sowers - Program Manager
- Leah White - Program Coordinator

Opening:

- The 4th quarter meeting of the Washington State Women's Commission was called to order at 2:00 PM on November 4th, 2022, in Sequim, WA by Commission Chair Rituja Indapure.
 - Introductions of Commissioners and Staff to presenter.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Open Issues / New Business

- Ritjua opens the floor for new business to be discussed
 - Leah- Updated Commissioners on the Governor's 10/28/2022 Press Conference on abortion access
- Commissioners and Staff share thoughts and gratitude as we wrap up the year and enter a new Legislative Session in January

Presentation

Cate Bridenstine | Executive Director of The Imagine Institute

- Background on the Imagine Institute
- Childcare crisis in our country and WA state
 - Six options for care
 - Licensed and or regulated childcare
 - Issue: not always an option due to lack of centers or cost prohibitive
 - Kinship caregiver
 - Issue: Not everyone has family close by
 - Kinship caregivers can receive subsidy from the state at only \$3/hour
 - Nanny
 - Issue: Cost prohibitive
 - Stay home
 - Issue: most households in the US require care outside of the home
 - Unlicensed or "gray/black market care"
 - Issue: unregulated
 - Combination of the above options
 - The Imagine Institute finds people are commonly surprised options for childcare have not changed or have gotten worse
 - Childcare workforce allows people to work outside of the home.
 - Rural communities have lowest access
 - Middle- and low-income households have the highest need for outside care
 - \$57 billion each year in lost earnings, productivity, and revenue
 - 617,000 women left the workforce in Sept. 2020 compared to only 78,000 men
 - Currently, 14% of our licensed providers are closed, some permanently.
 - 1 out 3 childcare educators struggle with food insecurity
 - High quality ECE has a high return on investment
 - ECE remained in person throughout pandemic having drastic mental health consequences for workers.
 - WA Lost up 24% of ECE workforce during COVID
 - As of November 2022, WA is still down 14%
- What can be done?
 - Open more ECE centers to increase capacity across the state
 - Provide supports to the workforce so they can stay in the field
 - Thousands of people who need us to act immediately.
- Solutions
 - Lidia Tadlla | Owner of Faith
 - Moved to US from Ethiopia
 - Left her healthcare job in 2020 to care for her children
 - Started helping people in her community with childcare solutions
 - On suggestion from a friend, she joined the Imagine Institute to get educated on how to run a ECE center
 - Received a \$4000 grant to invest into her business
- Imagine U
 - Aims to expand access to ECE
 - Relationship based

- Aims to increase the number of licensed childcare providers
 - Inclusive of language access (Spanish, Somali, and English)
- Program works to grow but also sustain by paying mentors
- Imagine U Impacts
 - Opened over 400 childcare centers
 - Increases capacity by 5000 new slots
 - Licensed family childcare support
 - 100% of licensed family childcare providers
 - Shared services hub members
 - 40% come from rural communities
- Workforce & Retention
 - Communities of care- groups of providers that come together across 4 languages to support each other to boost mental health inclusion

Agenda for Next Meeting

Updates from the Governor's Office on proposed abortion access protection legislation
Legislative Updates going into 2023 Legislative Session

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM by Commission Chair, Rituja Indapure. The next general meeting will be at 9:00 AM on January 13, 2023. The next meeting will be Hybrid and in Olympia, WA.

Minutes submitted by: Leah White