

**LOUISIANA WOMEN’S POLICY AND RESEARCH COMMISSION**

August16, 2023

State Capitol, Governor’s Press Room, 4th Floor

Charmaine Caccioppi, Chair Presiding

**MINUTES**

**Members in Attendance:**

Charmaine Caccioppi

Renee Antoine

Tonya Bolden – Ball

Berkley Durbin

Ashely Townsend

Julie Schwam Harris

Suzette Caleo (Proxy Julie Schwam Harris)

Raegan Carter

Ava Dejoie Cates

Susanne Dietzel

Melanie Washington

**Public in Attendance:**

Gina Womack

Chaundra Allen Mitchell

Karen Webb

Dalene Cusanze

Chelse Green

Shana Chavis

Joni Goulas

Deon Sumer

Hatznia Washington

Francis Robinson

Chelsea Young

Melissa Hourg

Pamela Allsion

Tewabetch Negatu

Taylor Robinson

Sadie Becnel

Trinna Stanford

Bridget Fleurg

Wanjennia Atkins

Ava Rodgers

Donna Dees

Susasn East Nelson

Stacy Roursel

**Staff in Attendance**:

Renee Antoine, *Office of Women’s Policy, Director*

Jy’Asia Sams, *Assistant to Director, Governor’s Office on Women’s Policy*

1. **Call to Order** 
   * Charmaine Caccioppi called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and provided a welcome.
   * Renee Antoine took roll and a quorum was not established.

1. **Acknowledgment of Guest/Partners**
   * Chair, Charmaine Caccioppi provided an introduction welcoming all of the attendees and acknowledged the presence of the esteemed First Lady Donna Edwards and Chair Mariah Wineski of the Domestic Violence Prevention Commission.
2. **Old Business**

* **Approval of Minutes**
  + The minutes were not approved

1. **Shared Learning: Dr. Anita Raj, Executive Director: Tulane University Newcomb Institute** (**La Violence Experiences Survey 2023 Reveal)**
   * Dr. Raj Discussed the Results of the La Violence Experiences Survey to present population estimates that aid in understanding the scope of violence in Louisiana.
   * Her survey reveals that 53% (half of adults in Louisiana) have experienced violence in their lifetime.
   * 1 in 5 Louisiana Adults have been threatened by a gun in their lifetime.
     + (15% of women and 29% of men)
   * 250,000 Louisiana adults experienced physical violence in the last year, she expressed that the majority is accumulated violence against men and the other is violence against women
   * Dr. Raj emphasizes the difference between violence against men and women, for violence against men frequently involves strangers whereas violence against women is within their homes and with their parents
   * 27,000 Louisiana adults experienced violence at the hands of the police in the last years
   * 41 % of Louisiana adults have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime
   * 40% of women have been verbally harassed
   * 2 in 5 Louisiana women reported enduring physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime
     + 42% women and 29% men
     + Women are more likely than men to report a history of sexual violence and/or sexual intimate partner violence
   * Dr. Raj shared the Tulane Newcomb Recommendations on addressing violence in Louisiana
     + Violence prevention policies and programs must be prioritized to address the epidemic proportions of violence we see in the state, and these must be developed in ways that are gender-specific and support the safety and equity of socioeconomically marginalized groups
     + Violence prevention and intervention efforts should be integrated with public health programs
     + Violence prevention programs must work hand in hand with economic justice, health equity, and racial justice movements
     + All levels of government must engage in redressing violence in our community
     + Gender equity – including efforts to increase women’s economic and political participation as well as efforts to ensure women are free from violence and harassment in public and private spaces – is key to addressing violence against women in Louisiana
   * Chair, Charmaine Caccioppi welcomed and opened the discussion with the audience and presenter Dr. Anita Raj
   * An attendee in the audience asked if the La Violence Survey collected data on bullying in middle and high schools and whether there is a correlation to this specific violence
     + Dr. Raj expressed that while she doesn’t have specific data, however, she has confirmed that if you were abused as a child you’re more likely to experience any form of abuse as you get older
2. **Shared Learning : Whole Health Louisiana:Presenter: (Kristen Sanderson Violence Injury Prevention Manager)**

* Ms. Sanderson provided a brief description of the current status of Louisiana Whole Health and the future projections
* She expressed that Louisiana Whole Health was out in place within the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to facilitate the process of plane development.
* They currently have fully developed strategies for the state-wide trauma-informed plan and are in the process of creating the objectives and what the different sectors of the plan will be committed to.
* The plan will be drafted in October, and it will be released in November, following the plan of implementation next year.

1. **2023 New Business**
   * Commission 2023 Quarterly update
     + Renee Antoine introduced the Quarterly Update Newsletter
     + The newsletter will be attached
2. **Public Comments/Events**

There were no public comments.

1. **Adjournment**

There being no other business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.