



Office on the Economic Status of Women

TO: OESW Advisory Committee
FROM: Barbara Battiste, Director, Office on the Economic Status of Women (OESW)
DATE: February 2, 2016

RE: 2016 OESW WORKPLAN

- I. 2016 Legislative Session
 - a. General monitoring of all legislation that impacts women's economic security. Where considered advisable, provide related information to appropriate legislators and legislative committees.
 - b. Child Care
 - i. Offer research assistance to the House Select Committee on Affordable Child Care.
 - c. Child Support
 - i. Provide information to legislators on the economic impact on women of proposed changes in Minnesota's system for calculating child support.
 - d. Economic Disparities
 - i. Disaggregate data to show economic disparities for women of color.
- II. Develop and publish the following new OESW reports and fact sheets:
 - a. Economic status of Minnesota's women of color.
 - b. Connection between economics and domestic/sexual violence.
 - c. Economic status of Minnesota's disabled women.
 - d. On-line *Women's Resource Guide*, listing resources for women and organizations to consult on issues such as domestic and sexual violence, child support and custody, spousal maintenance, divorce, education, job training, women-owned businesses, employment, finances, housing, health, etc.
 - e. 2016 Legislative Session Summary.
 - f. Report on 2016 OESW Greater Minnesota Listening Sessions.
 - g. Gender composition of Minnesota's elementary, secondary, and post-secondary school systems.
- III. Continue to publish bi-monthly newsletters.
- IV. Women's Economic Security Act
 - a. Continue to monitor and publish information on WESA implementation.
 - b. Canvass WESA implementation agencies to determine the public education and outreach that has been done to ensure that employers and employees are aware of WESA's new workplace protections. If necessary, recommend additional efforts.
 - c. Continue to provide advice to MDHR on the Equal Pay Certificate program.

V. Connections to Community

- a. Hold OESW Greater Minnesota Listening Sessions. Consider having them on evenings or weekends, to increase attendance by individuals, vs. organizations. Explore other approaches to expanding outreach.
- b. Expand and strengthen OESW connections to individuals and organizations that are concerned with women's economic issues, including representatives of women of color.
- c. Assist in planning 2016 Women's Economic Security Summit.
- d. Continue to serve on the Employment Committee of the Governor's Diversity & Inclusion Council.
- e. Continue to serve on MnDOT's Advisory Team on Transportation Needs.
- f. Give presentations on women's economic security upon request.

VI. Other

- a. Respond to legislative requests for research and support.
- b. Continue to maintain Child Support/Spousal Maintenance COLA guidelines and table and respond to related calls from the public.
- c. Research availability of financial literacy education, both in Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities area, to see if there is a need for additional programs targeted at women, including older women. (Financial literacy was highlighted as a priority women's economic issue in OESW's 2016 Greater Minnesota Listening Sessions.)