



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women

11/25/24 Meeting Minutes that were approved at the Q1 2026

(Feb. 27, 2026) virtual Task Force Meeting

Meeting: Q4 2024 Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women meeting

Date/Time: Monday, November 25, 2024 | 1:00-3:00 pm

Location: Virtual meeting via Cisco Webex

Appointed Members Present: State Senator Terri Bryant, Kathy Daniher, Sheleda Doss, State Representative Mary E. Flowers, Millicent Lewis-McCoy, Ph.D., Sarah Littrell, Carrie Thomas, and Interim Task Force Chair Michelle Lura White

Appointed Members Absent: State Representative Amy Grant and State Senator Doris Turner

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Staff Present: Marketing Data Specialist, Anggi Lewis; Women's Business Development Manager, Michelle Lura White (*Michelle is also DCEO's designee to the Task Force and is the Task Force Interim Chair*); Legal Counsel, Tom Seymour; and Legislative Affairs Deputy Director, G. Tito Quiñones

Call to Order: Interim Chair Michelle Lura White called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Roll Call: DCEO-OE3 Marketing Data Specialist Anggi Lewis conducted roll call in which eight (8) members were present at the meeting. Quorum was met.

Previous Minutes: As DCEO Legal Counsel Tom Seymour shared at the 11/25/24 meeting, there are no previous minutes to be approved as we did not have quorum at the August 28, 2024 meeting.

Adoption of Bylaws: As the floor was open to objections and/or discussions regarding the bylaws draft, which was a draft that DCEO's Legal Counsel's team provided that incorporates content from [\(20 ILCS 5075/15\) Opportunities for At-Risk Women Act](#). State Senator Terri Bryant made motion for us to adopt the bylaws, with Sheleda Doss making a second motion. Anggi Lewis took a roll call vote, with all 8 Task Force Members present voting in favor of adopting the bylaws.

Nominations and Vote of Task Force Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary: As Task Force Interim Chair Michelle Lura White did not receive any prior nominations for the three roles, she opened with floor nominations.



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State Representative Mary E. Flowers nominated herself for Task Force Chair. As there were no other nominations for Task Force Chair, Anggi Lewis took a roll call vote with all eight (8) members present voting in favor of State Representative Mary E. Flowers leading as Task Force Chair.

For the Task Force Vice-Chair role, Representative Mary E. Flowers nominated Senator Terri Bryant in which Senator Bryant accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominations for Task Force Vice Chair, Anggi Lewis took a roll call vote with all eight (8) members present voting in favor of State Senator Terri Bryant leading as Task Force Vice Chair.

For the Task Force Secretary role, State Representative Mary E. Flowers nominated State Representative Amy Grant for the Secretary role. Representative Grant was not present at the meeting to accept her nomination. Michelle said she will follow-up with Representative Grant if she accepts the nomination. State Senator Terri Bryant nominated Michelle Lura White for the Secretary role, in which Michelle accepted. Legal Counsel Tom Seymour advised that we hold off the vote for Secretary till the next meeting. He also advised that Michelle can continue the rest of the meeting as the Interim Chair.

Research Subcommittee proposal: Interim Chair Michelle Lura White provided a brief overview of the recommendation of creating a Research Subcommittee in which this committee conducts research and asset mapping of the work being done for at-risk women throughout the state in different ecosystems. Before the Task Force creates any additional subcommittees and/or begins creating any type of resource for At-Risk Women, this subcommittee will research and identify resources that have already been created so that our Task Force does not re-create the wheel. State Representative Mary E. Flowers shared that she was not aware of all the different work being done by various cross-sector organizations in Illinois and recommended that we need to identify why At-Risk Women haven't benefitted from these resources. DCEO's Legislative Affairs Deputy Director G. Tito Quiñones mentioned that through the creation of the Task Force's Research Subcommittee, this committee will be able to make those analyses after conducting research. As Task Force Interim Chair Michelle Lura White thanked Representative Mary E. Flowers for sharing her recommendation, Michelle reiterated that the research will help us determine those factors once the Subcommittee of Research begins diving into the asset mapping and research. Michelle also mentioned that from her research, different ecosystems are not aware of each others' work and resources, and this is where our Task Force on Opportunities for At-Risk Women can play a role in being the statewide connector and centralizing all the resources.

Dr. Millicent Lewis-McCoy made a motion that we create a Research Subcommittee, and State Representative Flowers made a second motion. Task Force Interim Chair Michelle Lura White called for a passed with leave of present Task Force members and there was no objection with the creation of the Task Force's Research Subcommittee. All eight (8) members present at the meeting approved the creation of the Research Subcommittee.



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In addition to herself, Task Force Interim Chair Michelle Lura White asked if there were two volunteers to be part of the Research Subcommittee in which Dr. Millicent Lewis-McCoy, Carrie Thomas, and State Representative Mary E. Flowers all volunteered to be part of it. Given that there are four Task Force members part of the subcommittee, Michelle shared that having more than three (3) members would be subjected to the Open Meetings Act in which the meetings would be opened to the public. Dr. Millicent Lewis-McCoy offered to step down if we needed to the subcommittee to be less than 3 members while State Representative Mary E. Flowers stated we should be including the public in the subcommittee meeting. DCEO's Legal Counsel Tom Seymour and Legislative Affairs Deputy Director G. Tito Quiñones said we will follow-up regarding the subcommittee.

End of Year Report: As stated in [\(20 ILCS 5075/15\) Opportunities for At-Risk Women Act](#), the Task Force shall Report to the Governor and the General Assembly on its activities and shall include any recommendations for legislation or rulemaking to facilitate its work in the targeted areas of assistance and outsourcing. Interim Chair Michelle Lura White opened the floor to recommendations, thoughts, and suggestions. Michelle said she will include in the report the creation of the Task Force Subcommittee of Research to identify work being done by different ecosystems. Legislative Affairs Deputy Director G. Tito Quiñones and Michelle followed-up that if any Task Force member has any recommendations, that they can follow-up with Michelle via email for Michelle to include it in the report. Interim Chair Michelle Lura White also mentioned that she will follow-up with the entire Task Force with the language draft of our recommendations for the Task Force members' review before we submit it.

Public Comment: There were no members of the public at the meeting. State Representative Mary E. Flowers recommended that we need the public to be part of our meetings and that we should host in-person meetings. As Interim Chair Michelle Lura White said that these meetings are open to the public where the public announcements are posted on DCEO's website and at DCEO's two offices in Chicago and Springfield, that we can host a hybrid meeting so we can accommodate Task Force members joining virtually and for any members of the public joining us given that this is a statewide Task Force. As State Representative Flowers was sharing potential locations for the hybrid meeting, Legislative Affairs Deputy Director G. Tito Quiñones mentioned that we can follow-up regarding future logistics.

Adjournment: State Representative Mary E. Flowers made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with State Senator Terri Bryant seconding the motion. All eight (8) members present voted to adjourn the meeting, with the meeting ending at 2:10 pm. Interim Chair Michelle Lura White said she will follow-up via email regarding the end of year report recommendation. The minutes draft will be shared next week after the holiday break.

Next Task Force virtual meeting: The Q1 2025 meeting date/time/meeting format will be determined in the near future.