



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Committee Members in Attendance via Electronic Device: Eva Bermudez Zimmerman, Easha Canada, Adrienne Cochrane, Molly Weston Williamson, Justin Zartman

Committee Members Absent: Sheila Hummel

CT Paid Leave Staff in Attendance via Electronic Device: Nancy Barrow, Erin Choquette, Amber Forrest, Stephanie Oliveras, Jessica Vargas

1. Welcome & Call to Order-

Committee Chair, Molly Weston Williamson, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Clerical Assistant, Stephanie Oliveras, took attendance by Roll Call and Ms. Weston Williamson acknowledged members of the public.

2. Review & Approval of January 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes-

Ms. Weston Williamson asked the Committee to review the January 16, 2025, meeting minutes and asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Eva Bermudez Zimmerman motioned, and Adrienne Cochrane seconded that motion. All but Justin Zartman and Easha Canada were in favor. None opposed. Mr. Zartman and Ms. Canada abstained. The motion carried.

3. Legislative Update

CEO, Erin Choquette, provided the Legislative Update through a slide presentation and shared that the Authority has been tracking Senate Bill 1427, which will provide benefit access to employees of public and private schools whose positions do not require them to have a certification or license. Ms. Choquette testified in support of the bill during a public hearing on March 4th.

4. MDRC Partnership for Focus Group/Surveys

Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Jessica Vargas, informed us that she has been working with Rebecca Schwartz from MDRC to assist the Authority with challenges claimants are experiencing, such as denials due to lack of documentation. Ms. Schwartz shared information about MDRC and how it can assist the Authority to identify and address barriers to access.

5. Outreach & Engagement Updates-

Ms. Vargas provided the Outreach & Engagement updates through a slide presentation, which included:

- Recent and Upcoming In-Person Events
- Partnership with OVS (Office of Victim Services)
- Recent Media Appearances
- Presentations/Trainings
- Paid Leave Spotlight
- Additional Projects

Engagement Manager, Nancy Barrow, provided an update on the CT Paid Leave Podcasts and reported that 75th podcast has been published.

6. Old Business- None

7. New Business- None

8. Adjournment-

Ms. Weston Williamson asked the Committee for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Zartman motioned, and Easha Canada seconded that motion. All were in favor. None opposed. None Abstained. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Meeting Recording Here: https://youtu.be/OyeNI_QUAZQ

Agenda Attachments:

- *Item 3 - Legislative Update*
- *Item 4- MDRC Partnership for Focus Group/Surveys*
- *Item 5- Outreach & Engagement Updates/Podcast Updates*