



## Outreach, Advocacy, Testimony Mark PCSW Annual Report



At AARP-CT's "Retirement Realities," a CPTV Live Town Hall Meeting. (L to R) Demographer Ken Gronbach, PCSW Executive Director Teresa Younger, AARP Director of Legislative Policy David Certner, and Moderator Gina Barreca. The event was one of nearly 60 public educational appearances by PCSW in 2011.

How busy were we in 2011? A quick look at the numbers tells the tale. In our recent Results Based Accountability (RBA) Report, given to the Legislature's Appropriations Committee and to Legislative Leadership each year, PCSW recorded the ways in which we carry out our mandate in our three target areas: women's economic security, health and safety, and the elimination of gender discrimination. Here are some highlights, by the numbers. But this summary is just part of the story; click [HERE](#) for the RBA Report, which gives a more comprehensive look at our work.

Bills monitored – 208; Bills testified on – 45; Legislative committees PCSW made recommendations to – 13; State employees PCSW trained in preventing employment discrimination – 329; State agencies engaged by PCSW – 24; Coalitions on which PCSW represents CT women – 11; Mandated commissions/task forces PCSW sits on – 9; Women in Talent Bank and ConnGAP – 411; Young women connected through YWLP – 387; Hits to web site – 34,110; Public speaking engagements – 53; Articles in media – 87; Newsletter readers – 5,246; Facebook fans – 1,146; Research Briefs – 27.



*From the Chair*  
Antonia "Toni" Moran

Happy New Year, everyone. This is an important year, and the PCSW is anticipating a busy and productive time, from a major speaker at our Women's Day celebration at the State Capitol on March 14, to continued monitoring of legislative and executive actions that may have an impact on women's lives.

In addition, 2012 is a major election year, with the entire Connecticut General Assembly up for election, as well as the U.S. Congressional delegation and the president. These elections can have a dramatic impact on women's lives. The actions of the Legislature have a direct impact on the issues that concern women: the economy, education, health, discrimination and more. They also produce such women leaders as Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill and former Gov. Jodi Rell, all of whom were state legislators before serving in statewide office.

Throughout the year, we'll be providing new data on women in Connecticut to support our programs and to keep stakeholders informed of the status of women in our state. You can be sure that the PCSW will be at the table wherever women's issues are being discussed. We hope to see you there with us.

## Top 10 Health Benefits for Women Provided by Affordable Care Act

Events in Washington directly affect what happens in Connecticut, and the PCSW continues to monitor the gains and losses in women's healthcare. On Jan. 6, U.S. Congressman Chris Murphy (shown in photo with Teresa Younger, below) asked the PCSW to join him in leading a women's health forum to discuss recent women's health and reproductive rights victories and setbacks in Washington. Women gained many important enhancements as a result of the Affordable Care Act, which was passed in March of 2010. Here are the "Top Ten" benefits, summarized. Click [HERE](#) for the full report from Raising Women's Voices and [HERE](#) to watch the CT-N broadcast of the Jan. 6 women's health forum.



1. All new insurance plans are required to cover preventive health care without imposing any additional costs, like co-payments, on policyholders.
2. Insurance companies are prohibited from canceling the policies of people who get sick.
3. Insurance companies can no longer set lifetime limits or "unreasonable" annual limits on the amount of medical care they will cover under existing policies.
4. Dependent children may stay on their family's policy until their 26th birthdays, unless they get coverage through their employers.

5. Women with high prescription drug expenses who are on Medicare Part D pay less for their medications. 6. You have a streamlined choice of health care providers and get easier access to them. 7. Small employers with low-wage workers (under \$50,000) are eligible for tax credits to help them buy health coverage for employees. 8. Children with pre-existing conditions cannot be denied coverage. 9. Adults with pre-existing conditions have new, more affordable coverage options through "high-risk" pools (or Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plans, PCIPs). 10. People who retire before they are old enough to qualify for Medicare can get more affordable health coverage through a new reinsurance pool.

## Calendar of Events

**Jan. 25: Family Child Care Working Group** with featured speaker from the National Women's Law Center; State Capitol, Hartford; 2-4 p.m.

**Jan. 26: First Year Anniversary: Gail Burns-Smith Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program (GBS SAFE Program)** ConnSACS and the Office of Victim Services honor the program on its first year of operation. CT Office of Victim Services; 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield; 3-4:30 p.m.

**Jan. 27: "The Direct Care Workforce: Meeting the Demand and Responding to the Need of CT Residents"** - a forum presented by the CT Commission on Aging; Legislative Office Building, Hartford; 10 a.m. - noon.

**Feb. 8: 2012 Legislative Session Begins**

**Feb. 15-19: PCSW Display in the Legislative Office Building**

**Feb. 16: Black History Month Event** Teresa Younger, guest speaker; Village for Families & Children, Hartford; noon.

**Feb. 22 Film Premiere: "Miss Representation"** Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford; 7-9:00 p.m. See full description, far right.

**March 7: Understanding the Dynamics of Domestic Violence Presented by CCADV;** 90 Pitkin St., East Hartford; 10 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Registration required.

**March 14: PCSW Women's Day at the Capitol;** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**March 29: Salons at Stowe: The Gender Wage Gap** Teresa Younger, panelist; Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford; 5-7:00 p.m.

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## Don't Miss It!

**Wed., March 14, 2012; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Women's Day at the Capitol**

- Featured speaker **Dr. Mariko Chang**
- YWLP Essay Contest Winners
- Meet with Legislators
- Luncheon (RSVP required)
- with Keynote Speaker **Patricia Russo**,  
President, Women's Campaign School at Yale
- Click [HERE](#) for flyer, buses and registration.

## Presidential Proclamation on Trafficking

President Barack Obama has proclaimed January 2012 National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Click [HERE](#) to read his proclamation. The PCSW convenes Connecticut's Trafficking in Persons Council. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

## Film Premiere: "Miss Representation"

Join PCSW on Feb. 22 for the Hartford-area premiere of "Miss Representation," a documentary by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, which premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. This important film explores how the media's portrayal of women leads to the underrepresentation of women in positions of influence. Held at the Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford. Hosted by Courant Columnist Susan Campbell, with panelists Teresa Younger, Anna Doroghazi of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Nikki McGary of University of Connecticut, and Frances G. Padilla of Universal Health Care Foundation of CT. Click [HERE](#) to watch trailer.