Afterschool Leadership Circle Meets at the Rhode Island State House
By: Mavis Nimoh

On April 26, 2018, United Way of Rhode Island’s Afterschool Leadership Circle (ALC) held its membership meeting at the Rhode Island State House.

This meeting, one in a series geared toward Advocacy and Afterschool, was organized by Travis Escobar, United Way’s Public Policy Program Manager, Joseph Morra, Senior Project Manager for Expanded Learning and ALC, and Mavis Nimoh, Senior Project Manager for Expanded Learning and ALC Lead.

Senator Ana B. Quezada, as well as Representatives Julie Casimiro and Aaron Regunberg, spoke to the group about the fundamentals of providing public testimony. Following their presentation, they worked with ALC members on a policy case study and mock testimonies.

Mavis Nimoh spoke about the goals of the Every Hour Counts framework:

- Using improved data to influence choices.
- Better outcomes for youth through an expanded learning system.
- Increased access to quality learning opportunities.

“Moving forward, ALC will advocate for the afterschool field and provide professional development opportunities using the Every Hour Counts framework; it will inform our work with members, the public, community groups, and parents,” explained Mavis. “We also intend to utilize this framework in discussions concerning the proposed Out of School Time Commission,” she continued.

Joseph Morra discussed the advances made through ALC’s professional development series and the successful creation of the Bachelor of Arts in Youth Development program at Rhode Island College. He said, “Our efforts in this area have created endless opportunities for the afterschool field; this is something we should all feel great about because it means better outcomes for youth.”
Travis Escobar explained the importance of United Way's role in the Senate’s Out of School Time Commission discussion and asked that all ALC members stay engaged in policy issues. “We make a direct impact in the lives of Rhode Island’s youth when we all work together,” he said.

The meeting ended with a State Capitol tour hosted by Anne T. Quintero, United Way’s Project Manager for Economic Security and Labor Relations.