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HAMPDEN COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

hccswg@gmail.com

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 11, 2018 @ 6:00-8:00pm

Location: Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St, Holyoke, MA 01104

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Chair Murray called the meeting to order 1/11/2018 at 6:05pm

II. Attendees

- Michelle Goncalves
- Nicole Murray
- Jennifer Metsch
- Dawn DiStefano
- Ellen Moorhouse
- Shanique Spalding
- Pattie Hallberg

Absent:

- Arlene Rodriguez

Guests:

- Jennifer Falcone
- Nataly Bass
- Merriam Santiago

III. Public Speak Out time

- No members of the public requested to speak.

IV. Presentation: Jen Falcone, MSW, LCSW

- Jen Falcone is the Coordinator of Western MA Businesses Against Human Trafficking and gave a presentation on human trafficking in Hampden County. The discussion included:
 - Globally, human trafficking is a \$150 billion dollar industry. \$99 billion is in sex trafficking. This is the second largest illegal business globally (second behind drugs and falls before weapons). It is the fastest growing illegal business in the world. In the US, sex trafficking profits are \$581m annual. The sex trafficking profit margins are 45-61%, depending on country
 - The Western MA Businesses Against Human Trafficking group is working on an initiative for human trafficking month where businesses can take a pledge to prevent trafficking.
 - MGM Casino coming into Springfield may act as a hub to increase trafficking. Falcone will work with law enforcement, businesses, and regulators to help stymie any increase of trafficking when the casino opens.

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- Massachusetts signed stringent laws against trafficking in 2011. They are strong, but not as strong as federal laws
- Currently, there are over 20,000 online ads for sex work in MA monthly
- Sex trafficking is the primary form of trafficking in our area. Anyone under the age of 18 forced to do a sex act is a crime; there is no such thing as a child prostitute. Any time a pimp is involved, it is considered coercion – and therefore, trafficking.
- In Springfield, there have been 89 confirmed or highly suspected cases of child sex trafficking in last year and a half. There are 150 children on the current DCF watch list. This list is mostly female and disproportionately young women of color.
- The HCCSWG discussed a possible partnership with Falcone for an upcoming event to get the word out about resources and initiatives
- Falcone's presentation slides will be made available through the HCCSWG.

V. Committee Sessions:

- Program: Jackie, Michelle, Jennifer
- Legislative: Dawn, Arlene, Nicole
- Social Media/Communications: Ellen, Shanique, Pattie
- Committees adjourned at 7:05pm

VI. Minutes Approval

- Motion to amend minutes and remove executive session. M: Moorhouse S: Spalding
- Spalding amendment: bullet point 3, under vice chair report – update treasurer to say Vice Chair
- Motion: Goncalves Second: DiStefano – motion unanimous.

VII. Chair Report

- Have been working on settling logistics, and getting the last of the notices out to the towns.
- Needs to elect a secretary. Goncalves is nominated.
- Motion to accept Chair Report: Moorhouse Second: Metsch – Vote is Unanimous

V. Vice Chair Report

- Updates on what statewide commission is working on for legislative priorities.
- Motion to Accept Vice Chair Report: Metsch Second: DiStefano Vote: Unanimous

VI. Other Reports (Subcommittees)

- Social Media: Motion to accept Report: Metsch Second: Goncalves Vote: Unanimous.
 - Social Media and Communication subcommittee created a HCCSWG Gmail account, Facebook page, and Dropbox.
 - An “away message” was created to acknowledge receipt of public's emails or comments
 - twitter account will be created next
 - Social Media Policy – establish and vote next meeting
 - Motion: Metsch Second: Hallberg Vote: Unanimous

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- Program & Planning: Useful to have demographic data on Hampden County cities and towns.
 - Figure out plans to host a public forum – perhaps across counties
 - Perhaps have office hours in rotating cities?
 - Plan for a forum in November?
 - Motion to accept report of committee: DiStefano Second: Metsch Vote: Unanimous

- Legislative: Reviewed bylaw changes.
 - Motion to accept bylaws as written, to send as draft to state organization for review and approval.
 - Motion to send: Metsch; Second: Goncalves; Vote: Unanimous

VIII. New Business

- Locations of upcoming meetings.
 - February 8, 2018: Rodriguez: TBD
 - March 8, 2018: DiStefano – West Springfield
 - However, this date is also international women's day. Spalding moved to move the meeting to the 15th. Second: Goncalves
 - April 12, 2018: Spalding – Chicopee TBD

X. Old Business

- Motion to accept nomination for Michelle Goncalves as secretary.
 - Roll call vote – unanimous
 - Michelle Goncalves: Yes
 - Nicole Murray: Yes
 - Jennifer Metsch: Yes
 - Dawn DiStefano: Yes
 - Ellen Moorhouse: Yes
 - Shanique Spalding: Yes
 - Pattie Hallberg: Yes
 - Arlene Rodriguez: Absent

IX. Announcements

- New HCCSWG Commissioner will likely be approved this month by MCSW
- Pioneer Valley Women's March: January 20th, Northampton MA. Start 11am at Sheldon Field

XI. Any other items that may lawfully come before this body:

XII. Adjournment

- Meeting Adjourned 8:00 PM
 - Motion: Metsch Second: DiStefano Vote: Unanimous
-

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Secretary

Date of Approval