

Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

DRAFT minutes

May 24, 2018

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Monson Town Hall, Public Meeting Room

110 Main St., Monson, MA 01057

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- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - a. Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM
 - b. Present: Dawn Distefano, Ellen Moorhouse, Nicole Murray, Arlene Rodriguez, Michelle Goncalves, Patricia Hallberg, Shanique Spalding (arrived at 6:31), Jennifer Metsch (via phone), Shaita Spruell (arrived 6:51 PM)
- II. Public Speak Out (15 minutes)
 - a. No requests for public announcements.
 - b. Moorhouse moved to close public speak session. DiStefano seconded. Motion passed.
- III. Subcommittee Meetings
 - a. Subcommittees convened at 6:19 PM.
 - b. Moorhouse moved to adjourn subcommittees. Hallberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Subcommittees adjourned at 6:30 PM.
- IV. Approval of minutes from April 23, 2018 meeting
 - a. Moorhouse moved to accept minutes. Hallberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Chair report
 - a. Chair received no nominations for officers.
 - b. Chair requests information from commissioners related to the annual report. Email any information directly to the chair.
 - c. Rodriguez moves to accept chair report. Hallberg seconds. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. Vice Chair report

- a. Deadline for Healthy Youth Act to move out of committee is now June 13.
 - i. Several Boston Globe articles were published related to this. These may be useful stories for our social media pages.
 - ii. Coalitions are activating around this and many opportunities will exist to be involved.
- b. Moorhouse moves to accept report. Rodriguez seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

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VII. Committee Reports

- a. Communications/Social Media
 - a. Committee did Advocacy day posts with photos.
 - b. Committee is going to create a Facebook event each of our events.
 - c. Committee is going to send calendar invitations to commissioners.
 - d. Spalding moves to accept the communications and social media report. Moorhouse seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- b. Program & Planning
 - a. No quorum
- c. Legislative
 - a. Reviewed advocacy day experiences.
 - b. Worcester does a legislative breakfast every year, and we would like to work with the programming committee to plan this.
 - i. Hallberg has offered Girl Scouts as a location to host.
 - c. Grant opportunity from Open Meadows Foundation for small and start up groups (\$2,000).
 - d. Requesting money from the MA Commission for supplies, materials, etc.
 - e. Goncalves moves to accept the report. Moorhouse seconded. Passes unanimously.

VIII. Old Business

- a. MCSW Advocacy Day
 - i. Rodriguez, Metsch and Spalding attended from our commission.
 - ii. Activities:

1. Meetings with legislators to discuss priority bills Paid Family Medical Leave Act, Act Supporting Working Parents Who Choose to run for office, Health Youth Act (including rise in HIV rates in the county), Act providing for Equitable Coverage in Disability Policies.
2. Commissioners also updated legislators on our progress as a commission.
3. Commissioners also spoke to Girls Inc contacts.

iii. Regional Meet up for all commissions

1. Commissions shared best practices and the MA commission will circulate materials to all commissions.
 - a. Worcester created an advisory committee which allowed non-commissioners to participate on subcommittees.
 - i. It is unclear how the advisory committee works since HCCSWG was advised by the state commission not to appoint non-commissioners to subcommittees.
 - ii. Spalding will reach out to Worcester to see how the advisory committee was structured, including how long the commission existed before it added an advisory committee
 - b. Cape and Islands did an electronic survey in lieu of a public forum. They received about 765 responses.
 - c. Franklin/Hampshire has an intern who has created a women's resource booklet that includes all women's organizations and resources in the area specific to women and girls. They also had a legislative breakfast to amplify rural voices.
 - d. Statewide commission will create and distribute logos to the commissions. Some commissions created logos already, which they can continue to use.
 - e. Bristol suggested that the commissions look at unsung heroines to engage them on the commission. They also created a working spreadsheet of all local elected officials.
2. 4 regional commissions (including HCCSWG) do not have authorization to have a treasury, but the state is looking to correct that.

3. If the budget is passed as planned, each commission will be eligible will be for a stipend.
4. May 22 email included state handbook, and all commissioners are asked to review that document.
 - a. HCCSWG will discuss this at a future meeting
5. Just Ask project roll out was not successful and will be redone. There were issues with access to training.

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b. Annual Report

- i. Our commission was given an extension until June 1.
- ii. Report will focus on how we spent the year getting our commission organized administratively so that we can hit the ground running.

c. Consent agendas

- i. There is a gap in approval of minutes after our previous secretary resigned. We would like to use July's meeting to clear this backlog.

d. Nominations for officers for next year

- i. Commission discussed officer nominations with whole group.
 1. Chair
 - a. Distefano, Moorhouse, and Metsch will consider.
 2. Vice Chair
 - a. Spalding was nominated
 3. Secretary
 - a. Goncalves and Spruell were nominated

e. Fall HCCSWG Hearing

- i. Thursday, November 8, 2018 at Chicopee Boys and Girls Club
- ii. Programming committee will be creating a list of people and organizations to invite to the forum.
- iii. We will want to create posters to distribute at public buildings, e.g. libraries.

IX. New Business

a. Regional Commission Meeting

- i. Discussed previously

X. Any Other Items that may Lawfully Come Before this Body

- a. Metsch met with the coordinator for young mothers group at ROCA and they may be interested in speaking at a future commission meeting. These are 15-24 year old individuals in the justice system, not employed, not in school, etc. and the most at risk women and girls in our community. It may be useful to hear from this group about criminal justice reform and how it will impact women and girls in the county.
- b. Moorhouse moved to skip an August meeting. Distefano seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Rodriguez moves to adjourn. Distefano seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- b. Meeting adjourns at 7:36 PM.

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