

**Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls**

**DRAFT Minutes**

September 13, 2018

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Community Room  
Wilbraham Police Department  
2780 Boston Rd  
Wilbraham, MA 01095

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2018 OCT -9 A 9:00  
TOWN OF LUDLOW

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
  - a. Present: Dawn DiStefano, Shaitia Spruell, Nicole Murray, Jennifer Metsch, Patricia Hallberg, Michelle Goncalves, Shanique Spalding (6:08)
  - b. Absent: Ellen Moorhouse
  - c. Call to order: 6:04 PM
- II. Public Speak Out (15 minutes)
  - a. No members of the public attended for speak out
- III. Roca New Mothers Program Presentation
  - a. Christine (Chris) Judd, Director, Young Mother's Program and Alycia Gay, Young Mothers Coordinator
  - b. Roca helps highest risk mothers lift themselves out of poverty. Works with mothers who are not ready to accept help or engage in traditional programming.
  - c. Audience: 16-24 year olds (most are 19-21), multiple system involvement, gang/street involved, drug/alcohol use, housing instability, history of victimization and trauma, no work history, lack of educational attainment; Children may be in DCF custody (and Roca will help with reunification)
    - i. In many cases, there are referrals from the men's program about young women who could benefit from the program; partnerships with DTA and DCF produce potential members; arrest records; district attorney referrals; word of mouth; programs that close out cases because of lack of engagement are asked to pass the women on to Roca who will take the case on.
      1. In future, we would expect a partnership with public school systems
  - d. The Young Mothers Program is a 4 year program, which helps build relationships.
    - i. That 4 years includes programming on: transitional employment and workforce readiness, family night parenting classes, HiSET Financial and Digital Literacy, Cognitive Behavior Therapy Curriculum
  - e. Program pillars include: Relentless outreach, transformational relationships, stage-based programming, engaged institutions

f. Long Term Goals: no subsequent pregnancies, sustained employment, demonstrated educational gains, sustained positive parent/child interaction, improved child outcomes

g. Affiliated with the MA Pregnancy Prevention Teen Initiatives and has received a DTA grant to support a total of 65 young mothers between Springfield and Holyoke (currently have 30 women in the program – by contrast serve over 200 men on the men side)

i. Staffing is shared among 3 programs so programming rotates by day – e.g. Tuesday is for men, Thursday is for women.

ii. Grants pay for a youth worker, part of a director, and a program coordinator; often have interns every semester to help with the babies

iii. There is significantly more demand than just 65 women.

h. Annual report contains a lot of data and Roca is also willing to share data points that the Commission may be interested in but may not be outlined in that report.

#### IV. Subcommittee Meetings

a. Subcommittee meetings occurred from 6:04 to 6:19 PM

#### V. Approval of minutes from July 12, 2018 meeting

a. Metsch moves to accept minutes. Spruell seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

#### VI. Chair report

a. October 30 – Hampden County Coalition to Identify and Prevent the Sexual Exploitation of Children, Baystate Conference Center

b. October 25 – State Commission hearing in Turners Falls

c. September 20, October 3, Oct 23, Nov 29 – Just Ask trainings

i. Commissioners are able to use a code to waive registration fee for the webinar trainings

d. Arlene Rodriguez has resigned from the HCCSWG and will be relocating

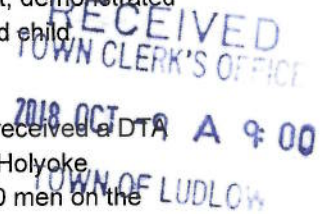
i. A reminder that our commission has a rolling application

e. Liz Friedman from the MA State Commission (and Hampshire County Commission liaison) is interesting in coordinating a social hour for all the WMass commissioners to meet each other. More information will be provided

f. Hallberg moves to accept chair report. Metsch seconds. Passes unanimously

#### VII. Vice Chair report

a. Legislative session ended July 30. Two commission bills did not pass – Healthy Youth Act and Disabilities bill.



- b. 3 sister commissioners ran in the past election cycle: Chelsea King, Tahira Amatul-Wadud, Francia Wisnewski.
- c. Hallberg moves to accept vice chair report. Spruell seconds. Passes unanimously.

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VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Communications/Social Media
  - a. Facebook event will be created for our November hearing at the beginning of October and following up as we get closer to the hearing date.
  - b. Committee would like an event registration page created for RSVPs versus using a gmail account. Spalding will create the link and posters can be updated and circulated to newtorks
  - c. Metsch moves to accept. Spruell seconds. Passes unanimously.
- b. Program & Planning
  - a. Through Her Eyes conference is coming up October 25 at the Mass Mutual Center and we will be following up to see if there is still interest in us hosting a break out session and to have commissioners attend to hear from attendees.
    - i. HCCSWG is allowed to be at the event, but because it is not a public event (a paid event), we cannot use it as a public hearing session.
  - b. Publicity for the November 8 hearing
    - i. Committee discussed possibility of publicizing the Nov 8 hearing at Mass Appeal?
  - c. Commissions shared drive contains a spreadsheet of contacts to publicize the November 8 hearing to. Commissioners are asked to review and update.
  - d. Spruell will invite a speaker to an upcoming meeting to discuss doula programs in WMass
  - e. Spalding moves to accept report. Hallberg seconds. Passes unanimously.
- c. Legislative
  - a. DiStefano met with Lt Governor and she requested the Nov 8 flier and expressed interest in attending.
  - b. August 20 women's leadership meeting at YWCA organized by the Lt. Governor. DiStefano will keep the commission updated.
  - c. Metsch moves to accept the report. Spruell seconds. Passes unanimously.

IX. Old Business

- a. HCCSWG Calendar

Meeting Date	Commissioner in charge of location
October 11, 2018	Spalding
November 8, 2018	Metsch (7:30-8 PM)
December 13, 2018	DiStefano
January 10, 2019	Goncalves
February 11, 2019	Hallberg
March 14, 2019	Spalding
April 11, 2019	Moorhouse
May 9, 2019	Murray
June 13, 2019	Spruell

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- i. Murray moves to accept calendar with edits. Spruell seconds. Passes unanimously.
  - b. Fall HCCSWG Hearing
    - i. This item has been discussed previously.
    - ii. Press release will be needed and a draft should be brought to the October meeting for approval
  - c. Constituent Survey
    - i. Commissioners still want to have this survey available at the Nov meeting in electronic and paper form.
    - ii. A link to the survey could be included in an auto response from the Nov 8 RSVP list.
  - d. MCSW Handbook and Policies
    - i. State commission did not send any feedback to the committee after we submitted our comments
- X. New Business
  - a. Women's Fund of WMass research on women and girls in Western MA
    - i. Women's Fund is collecting research that will be disaggregated by county, so it will be useful to the commission. The research is still at the very preliminary stages.
    - ii. Hallberg will invite director of the Women's Fund to speak at one of our upcoming meetings.
  - b. Commissioners Metsch and Goncalves need to make public their intentions to continue on the commission
    - i. Metsch wishes to continue.
    - ii. Goncalves will notify the commission prior to September 30

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

- a. Metro West Commission is hosting Darieth Chisholm on September 20 for a talk about revenge porn
- b. Zantas Club of Quaboag County will host a speaker on trends in domestic violence at October 15, Ludlow Country Club

XII. Adjournment

- a. Hallberg moves to adjourn. Murray seconds. Passes unanimously

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Proposed Calendar for HCCSWG FY19

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\*same day as public hearing

\*\*needs a new commissioner in charge

Meeting locations to date:

- HCC, Donohue 210, Holyoke, MA
- STCC, Scibelli Hall (building 2) Double room 217-218, Springfield, MA
- Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St, Agawam, MA 01001
- Ludlow Town Hall, Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA
- Longmeadow Fire Department, Community Room at 44 Williams Street Longmeadow, MA 01106
- EDC Conference Room at 1441 Main Street, Springfield
- Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St, Holyoke, MA 01040
- MassLive Building, 1350 Main Street, Community Room, 3rd Floor, Springfield, MA 01103
- West Springfield Town Hall (26 Central Street – 2nd Floor) Mayor's Conference Room
- East Longmeadow Public Library, 60 Center Square, East Longmeadow, MA 01028
- Monson Town Hall, Public Meeting Room, 110 Main St., Monson, MA 01057
- Western MA Hospital, 91 East Mountain Road, Westfield, MA
- Girl Scouts, 301 Kelly Way, Holyoke MA
- Community Room, Wilbraham Police Department, 2780 Boston Rd, Wilbraham, MA 01095
- Chicopee Boys and Girls Club (November public meeting)

Hampden County Towns we have not yet met in:

- Blandford
- Brimfield
- Chester
- Granville
- Hampden
- Holland
- Montgomery
- Palmer
- Russell
- Southwick
- Tolland
- Wales