

Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Minutes DRAFT

February 11, 2019

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Girl Scouts
301 Kelly Way
Holyoke, MA 01040

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- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - a. Chair DiStefano called to order at 6:02 PM
 - b. Present: DiStefano Goncalves Hallberg Metsch Moorhouse Murray Ogulewicz Spruell
 - c. Absent: Spalding
- II. Public Speak Out (15 minutes)
 - a. No members of the public requested to speak
- III. Approval of minutes from January 10, 2019
 - a. Hallberg moves to accept minutes; Metsch seconds; passes unanimously
- IV. Chair report
 - a. DiStefano is serving on the Women's Fund advisory committee related to their data report on the Status of Women.
 - i. Committee is currently looking for data sources that the Fund can use in their report. If commissioners have any suggestions for resources, forward to Distefano to pass on.
 - ii. Report is scheduled to be published April 2
 - b. DiStefano attended the Human Trafficking Forum meeting and distributed contact information for speakers.
 - i. Businesses against human trafficking committee continues to train business staff.
 - ii. Attorney General announced a labor trafficking webinar that will take place Wednesday, Feb. 13 @ 10:30-11:30
 - c. Springfield Museums have a group called Women at Work, and they have an exhibit of the Women at Work exhibit and a women and art exhibit.
 - i. DiStefano inquired with the museums if they would be open to hosting a public hearing to take place sometime during the exhibit.
 - d. DiStefano reported on a follow up conversation related to the Berkshire County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls' previous request to host a public hearing in the Chicopee Women's Jail.

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- i. NEPR has a series of reports on women in Berkshire County dealing with a "long distance lock up" in the Berkshire Eagle.
 - ii. An Assistant Superintendent at Chicopee jail spoke with DiStefano and agreed to provide data related to questions that were raised about location.
 - iii. Assistant Superintendent is also willing to speak at a future FCCSWG hearing.
 - iv. The after-incarceration facility may be an option for a public hearing.
 - v. Berkshire Commission raised visitation concerns related to distance as a major concern. However, statistically, women receive fewer visitors, so more data is needed to better understand the concern.
- e. Moorhouse moves to accept chair report; Hallberg seconds; passes unanimously
- V. Vice Chair report
- a. Vice Chair was absent but sent a report electronically
 - i. Senate has until April to sign on to bills, so advocates are asking for sponsorship now. We may not hear about specific group sponsorship until April as well.
 - ii. It may be most advantageous to ask local reps what they are advocating for.
 - b. Ogulewicz moves to accept vice chair report; Metsch seconds; passes unanimously.
- VI. Old Business
- a. Constituent/Community Survey
 - i. Preliminary data was presented
 - ii. Survey will be extended until February 28, 2019
 - b. Legislative breakfast updates
 - i. Date changed to Monday, May 6, 2019 | 8:30-9:30 AM
 - ii. Breakfast vendor suggested to us does not deliver and can only provide bagels. Hallberg will research other vendor options.
 - iii. Moorhouse provided a sample save the date for review
 - iv. Commissioners agreed to invite state senators and state representatives and provided a spreadsheet.
 - v. Follow up from January meeting:
 - 1. Identifying bills
 - a. We need to figure out what legislation we want to encourage our legislators to sign on to, so we need to know what they have already signed on to.
 - b. We need to speak with the MCSW to learn when their priorities are coming out.
 - i. DiStefano will reach out to MSCW

2. Commissioners discussed how to prepare for the breakfast and overall goals for the breakfast

3. To do

a. Commissioners are asked to come to the March meeting prepared to spend 1 hour prepping our presentation.

i. Include how to explain who we are, what data we have found (speakers, survey, hearings), and specific ways that we could collaborate with the legislators.

c. Subcommittee Structure

i. Distefano will bring amended by laws (removing standing committees) to the next meeting for a vote.

d. International Women's Day Community Events

i. Worcester Girls Inc - March 8 @ 6-8 PM

ii. Boston Simmons College - March 5 @ 8-10 AM

iii. YWCA Worcester - March 7 @ 5:30-7:30 PM

iv. CWC UMass- March 7 @ 4-6 PM

v. Commissioners are encouraged to attend these events.

vi. HCCSWG will make a social media post on March 8

vii. Given the gap in events in Hampden County, it would be helpful for our commission to do something next year.

viii. Denim Day, April 24, 2019 - This may also be another date to consider as we plan programming for next year.

ix. HCCSWG may want to initiate a hampden county calendar focused on days of remembrance, events relevant to women and girls, etc.

e. March 14 - HCCSWG will host James Saucedo, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless as a speaker at our next meeting.

VII. New Business

a. No new business raised

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

a. No other items raised

IX. Adjournment

a. Moorhouse moves to adjourn; Spruell seconds; passes unanimously

b. Meeting adjourns 8:01 PM

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