

Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Minutes DRAFT

November 14, 2019

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Holyoke Public Library
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I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM
- b. Present: DiStefano, Goncalves, Metsch (departed at 6:45 PM), Spalding, Hallberg
(arrived at 6:02 PM)

II. Public Speak Out (15 Minutes)

- a. No members of the public were present aside from those attending for the listening session under agenda item III.

III. Listening Session with Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts (1 hour)

- a. Donna Haghighat, CEO, Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, presented findings from the Women's Fund's Research Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Western Massachusetts. See

<https://www.mywomensfund.org/wma-women-and-girls/>

Commissioner Metsch left at 6:45 PM

IV. Approval of minutes from October 24, 2019

- a. Hallberg moved to approve minutes from October 24 with typos corrected.
Spalding seconds. Passes unanimously.

V. Chair Report

- a. Sasha Heggie-Jackson will call into the next meeting to inform the commission about the process to appoint commissioners.
- b. HCCSWG should consider attending Sparkle event organized by Trinity Health in 2020.
- c. Chair DiStefano anticipates new commissioner appointments to be approved by January 1.
- d. Chair DiStefano suggests the HCCSWG identify partnerships and events where we should have a presence. Doing so will require creation of materials/handouts.
- e. Spalding moves to accept chair report. Hallberg seconds. Passes unanimously.

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VI. Vice Chair Report

- a. VC Hallberg suggests commissioners spend concerted time on creating a strategic plan for a year and identifying what the HCCSWG should focus on.
- b. Spalding moves to accept VC report. Goncalves seconds. Passes unanimously.

VII. Old Business

- a. Follow up discussion regarding Investing in Girls Alliance
- i. Commissioners were asked to identify organizations that focus on girls in Hampden County or have a gender specific program. Organizations discussed include:
1. Girls Inc
 2. YWCA
 3. Girl Scouts
 4. Girls on the Run
 5. Zonta International
 6. Kiwanis Club

7. Gandara Center Youth Development Program
8. Women's Fund
9. Big Brother Big Sisters
10. Planned Parenthood
11. Boys and Girls Clubs
12. CHD
13. Baypath
14. Take the Mic
15. Housing authority
16. Tapestry
17. Out Now

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- ii. HCCSWG will pick a meeting date in 2020 where 3-5 organizations are invited to attend a listening session to discuss the Investing in Girls Alliance and what a Western MA version could look like and require.

b. MCSW grant application

- i. Commissioners were asked to identify items HCCSWG could write into a MCSW grant application. Items discussed included:
 1. Design, postage and printing for mailings to towns and cities to publicize HCCSWG activities.
 2. Doula training fees
 3. Young women-focused hearing with survey (space rental, transportation fees)
 4. Transportation to send young girls from Hampden County to the State House for advocacy day.

ii. Conversation will continue at next month's meeting

VIII. New Business

- a. Discussion occurred around the possibility of having a conference call for the December meeting. Commissioners decided to keep an in person meeting for December 12.

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IX. Any Other Items That May Come Before this Body

X. Adjournment

- a. Spalding moves to adjourn. Hallberg seconds. Passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:36