

# Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

**DRAFT**

## **Minutes**

February 20, 2020

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

East Forest Park Library  
136 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA 01118

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- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. DiStefano calls to order at 7:06 PM
  - a. Present: DiStefano (West Springfield), Goncalves (Ludlow), Hallberg (Wilbraham), Metsch (Longmeadow), Marshall (Feeding Hills), Ortiz (Springfield), Jackson (Springfield)
  - b. Absent: Spalding (Springfield)
- III. Approval of minutes from January 9, 2020
  - a. Hallberg moves to accept minutes, Marshall seconds. Passes unanimously
- IV. Chair Report
  - a. Barbara McKenzie has stepped down from the commission. Commissioners were given a list of current applicants.
    - i. Commissioners discussed the need to advertise (e.g. via Facebook, LinkedIn) that we have a vacancy before making a decision.
  - b. Generation equality presentation is taking place at Springfield Museums

- c. Women's Economic Empowerment Summit is being organized by MCSW commissioner Shai Spruell on Apr 25. Commissioners are asked to provide feedback to DiStefano
- d. Debra Falzoi has asked that HCCSWG support a bill related to workplace bullying. They will attend the May 14 HCCSWG meeting to discuss.
- e. May 13 is MCSW Advocacy Day and the regional convening
- f. DiStefano provided a copy of the Businesses Against Human Trafficking pledge.
- g. DiStefano reported that HCCSWG submitted \$700 for funding from MCSW to support a bus to advocacy day.
- h. Jackson moves to accept chair report. Ortiz seconds. Passes unanimously

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#### V. Vice Chair Report

- a. Investing in Girls Alliance will host a human trafficking forum 9 AM - 12 PM on March 25 in Worcester.
- b. Girl Scouts are sending a call for nominations for the To Get Her There awards, which are series of awards given to people who have made significant differences for girls in a variety of different categories. Commissioners are encouraged to submit nominations.
- c. Marshall moves to accept the vice chairs report. Ortiz seconds. Passes unanimously.

#### VI. Old Business

- a. HCCSWG calendar
  - i. DiStefano shared a long term calendar of the next HCCSWG meetings.
- b. Commissioner roles

- i. Commissioners were asked to think about the roles they want to take on within the commission. Discussion occurred around what roles are needed, with social media being identified as critical. Marshall and Jackson offered to take the lead on social media. Future agendas will include calls for social media information.
- ii. Coffee hours were discussed as a possibility to better engage with the community and listen to feedback provided. Jackson offered to take the lead.

c. MCSW Activities Report

- i. The three HCCSWG bullet points suggested for submission to the MCSW for inclusion on their brochure are:

1. Monthly public meetings and hearings
2. Legislative advocacy
3. Survey and collection of information and data related to our community

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- ii. DiStefano will submit the bullet points to MCSW

d. MCSW Girl Initiative

- i. MCSW is hosting a girls summit in June and looking for focus groups across the state.
- ii. Girl Scouts are already planning to host a focus group and HCCSWG needs to decide if we should organize a separate session.
- iii. Commissioners are asked to reach out to girls serving organizations to see if there is interest.

e. Other - Girls Alliance

- i. Commissioners were asked to think of organizations and individuals to reach out to as possible partners for a Girls Alliance. A discussion occurred around possible participants.
- ii. Commissioners are asked to continue thinking of possible organizations and to determine what the definition of criteria for prioritizing the invitation to the initial meeting should be (e.g. does girl need to be in a mission statement?)

VII. New Business

- a. MCSW February 20 public meeting
- b. Any Other Items That May Come Before this Body

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Moves Metsch to adjourn, Hallberg seconds, Passes unanimously
- b. Adjourns at 7:42 PM

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Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Goncalves, Secretary