

Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Minutes DRAFT

April 9, 2020

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Online via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/651612029>

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I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair called to order at 6:04 PM

Present:

- Dawn DiStefano, West Springfield
- Michelle Goncalves, Ludlow
- Pattie Hallberg, Wilbraham
- Jennifer Metsch, Longmeadow
- Shanique Spalding, Springfield
- Tara Marshall, Feeding Hills
- Gabrielle Jackson Springfield

Absent: Lizzy Ortiz, Springfield

II. Public Speak Out (15 min.)

Kendra, Springfield resident who works for Women Make Movies was present but did not make a statement.

Additional members of the public were present but did not request to speak.

III. Approval of minutes from February 20, 2020

Hallberg moves to accept minutes. Marshall seconds. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

IV. Chair Report

Chair expressed concern for women and children who are experiencing hardship, including violence in their homes, as a result of COVID-19.

Chair encouraged commissioners to share important information through the HCCSWG social media to help ensure Hampden County residents have access to the information.

Commissioner Spruell is looking for feedback on an equal pay handbook for employers. Commissioners are encouraged to review and share feedback.

Metsch moves to accept chair report. Hallberg seconds. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

V. Vice Chair Report

YWCA in Springfield is full right now, and Vice Chair expressed concern for what will happen when we run out of resources.

Vice Chair explained some ways through which young girls are coping with social distance restrictions

Marshall moves to accept chair report. Metsch seconds. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

VI. Old Business

a. Social Media Policy

Commissioner Marshall has been trying to post once a day to ensure the page is active.

Commissioners reviewed an existing draft social media policy.

Hallberg moves to accept the social media policy. Spaulding seconds. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

b. Upcoming Events for Promotion on Social Media

Chair reminds commissioners to bring events/meetings that we should be promoting to the HCCSWG meeting so we can be sure they are circulated.

Reminder that the Dress for Success Common Threads event will be April 16.

c. Hampden County Girls Alliance

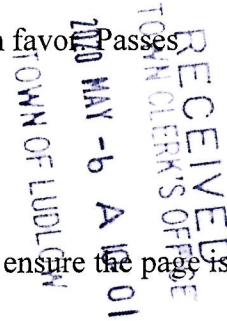
Commissioners discussed and agreed to postpone plans to engage organizations for this initiative given the pandemic.

d. Coffee Hours

Commissioners discussed transitioning their coffee hour idea to an online office hour. This could be an opportunity to stay connected with constituents during social distancing.

Jackson will share a sign up sheet to start this initiative.

Commissioners discussed cautions to take related to zoombombing, including requesting people to register in advance versus circulating the link in advance.



- e. MCSW Girls Initiative
Programming is put off until at least the fall.

MCSW grants have not been awarded yet, and it is not clear if the advocacy day has been canceled yet.

VII. New Business

National Women's Law Center circulated a letter to draw attention to the issues important to women and girls during COVID19. They have asked MCSW to support the letter.

HCCSWG will be asked to vote on support for the letter at the May meeting.

A conference call occurred today, but the commission was not given enough notice to participate. Chair Distefano will reach out to the organizers and ask if they will do another conference call with more notice.

Advocacy and Legislative Updates in light of COVID19

Moratorium on rent and foreclosure bill has passed the house and is moving faster than other advocacy issues.

Rep. Sabadosa is pushing for a bill to release inmates being held or who cannot make bail if they are non violent offenders. Hampden County jail has several COVID cases right now, so the issue is important to our county.

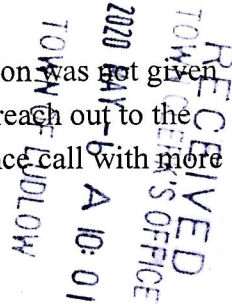
Roe Act - The Commission has supported this bill. It is still in committee. Roe Coalition has encouraged individuals to take action in ways that educate people about abortion access, especially now. Coalition is activating to collect stories and support for abortion access.

Spaulding will circulate more information.

Jobs with Justice has started a fund for undocumented individuals who may have lost wages and are unable to file for unemployment.

Spaulding will circulate additional Mutual Aid information through social media.

Requests for PPE have been circulating throughout the county.



What is the commission's role in circulating information during this pandemic?

Can we compile a list of resources and push out links (e.g. community legal aid is doing additional work right now)?

Do we want to launch a facebook poll to identify what type of information we should be sharing?

DiStefano will draft text for survey questions, including a request if they want to share an email address so we can start to craft a mailing list.

VIII. Adjournment

Hallberg moves to adjourn. Marshall seconds. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourns at 6:58 PM.

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