

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

## **Minutes DRAFT**

May 14, 2020

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Online via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/96925661452?pwd=TGVvdUNic0pCR3VPS1BQSGs1SlhaZz09>

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### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM

#### **Present**

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

#### **Absent:**

- Lizzy Ortiz, Springfield

### **II. Public Speak Out (15 min.)**

No members of the public requested to speak

### **III. Presentation by Debra Falzoi regarding workplace abuse legislation**

Debra Falzoi spoke about legislation she has been trying to pass regarding workplace abuse. She is seeking endorsement from organizations and for individuals to make calls to representatives for the Healthy Workplace Bill, which would encourage employers to prevent certain toxic behavior and provide recourse for victims to seek damages.

Falzo reports that women are more often targets than men and more people of color than others.

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Falzo is working to introduce the Dignity at Work Act next session, which will remove the malicious intent piece in current bills.

These bills relate to the current climate where health care professionals are retaliated against for speaking out when not having enough PPE, for instance, and so they hope to build momentum now.

See [DignityAtWorkAct.org](http://DignityAtWorkAct.org) for more information

#### IV. Approval of minutes from April 9, 2020

Spalding moves to accept minutes; Hallberg seconds; all in favor; passes unanimously

#### V. Chair Report

Chair DiStefano reported on the diaper bank at Square One and the extra work contact tracers putting in with people who are utilizing the bank (are you OK, do you need help, etc.). DiStefano will email the Square One helpline to all commissioners for distribution.

Reminder that call for nominations and election of officers will take place at the June 11 meeting. DiStefano and Goncalves are ineligible to be re-elected to their positions.

Hallberg moves to accept; Marshall seconds; all in favor; passes unanimously

#### VI. Vice Chair Report

Hallberg reports on participation at the MCSW Western MA Advocacy call that took place May 14 @ 5PM and commented on the number of legislators who were able to participate.

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Although several legislators have been attending calls, commissioners commented on the lack of Hampden County attendance.

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## VII. Old Business

### a. Upcoming Events for Promotion on Social Media

Commissioner Marshall was commended for her work on social media for the commission.

Commissioners discussed items that should be promoted online:

Volunteers are organizing around the Roe Act

Office of Economic Empowerment will be promoting several online programs in the coming weeks

### b. Hampden County Girls Alliance

HCCSWG will put effort into this program after the pandemic has passed.

### c. Coffee Hours

Commissioner Jackson was thanked for her work organizing this program.

For future coffee meetings, a resource list could be useful. Participants were eager to advocate and we need a way to connect them

It was suggested that commissioners refer or use [413cares.org](https://413cares.org)

Commissioners discussed if we could standardize the meetings. All were asked to send their availability to Gabrielle who will organize. If

commissioners have not already sent headshots and bios, they are asked to send those as well.

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d. MCSW Girls Initiative

HCCSWG has received information from MCSW around this initiative, but the information appears incomplete and it is not clear what actions are requested from the regional commissions.

Shaitia Spruell reports that there will be a series of virtual hearings on set dates and by age group. HCCSWG is asked to help recruit participants, especially because western MA girls are often left out of the conversation.

Spruell will let the commission know that we are happy to share information and to ask if we can receive a copy of a toolkit.

Marshall will promote on social media.

e. Hampden County survey

Only a handful of people have responded to date. The survey will stay open and live, but there may be survey fatigue.

HCCSWG may receive more feedback through our coffee in commissioners.

DiStefano will connect with the chair of the Hampshire Commission to see if they are interested in partnering.

f. Open commissioner position

It is likely that we will receive a spreadsheet listing the applicants, but will not receive it until Sasha returns from leave.

- g. Support for National Women's Law Center Letter (vote)

Discussion was tabled until June

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#### VIII. New Business

- a. Annual Report

Hallberg moved to accept the annual report; Mestch seconds; all in favor; passes unanimously.

DiStefano will submit the report to the MCSW

#### IX. Adjournment

Hallberg moved to adjourn; Marshall seconded; all in favor; passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourns at 7:10 PM