

Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Minutes- DRAFT

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March 11, 2021

2021 APR -6 A 8:46

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

TOWN OF LUDLOW

Online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6895726626?pwd=aDdCTEpPSlkwa2pxd29VZDRqZStkOT09>

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Gabrielle called for a roll call at 6:08 pm.
 - A. Tara Marshall
 - B. Gabrielle Jackson
 - C. Dawn Distefano
 - D. Shanique Spalding
 - E. Michelle Goncalves
 - F. Jennifer Metsch
 - G. Pattie Hallberg-not present
 - H. Jacqueline Velez-not present
 - I. Lizzy Ortiz- not present
- II. The meeting began with Gabrielle announcing our featured guest, Michelle Equale, Transformational and Operational Leader at Empower Retirement. Dawn welcomed her and we listened to Michelle speak.
- III. Public Speak Out (15 minutes) portion -There were 4 members of the public present in the zoom call. None chose to speak out. Dawn did make an announcement, she has a friend (Inari? Not sure on the spelling, need to check) that was in the YWI first graduating class. She embraced her social justice passion and partnered with "The Collective" and peace first and would like to connect with us and PP. Wants to encourage women of color by sharing their stories of experiences in the healthcare system and medical field. Gabrielle and Shanique mentioned and discussed our event next week "Women Breaking Barriers" on 3/18/21.
- IV. Chair Report
 - A. Asked if we had any ideas of how we would want to spend money for grant funding if we were to get any.
 - B. Jennifer suggested maybe an honorarium for young women to learn about advocacy and policy forums.
 - C. Shanique suggested maybe sponsoring girls to go to an org and learn a skill. Social media toolkit. Dawn mentioned we would need to order from the state vendor list.
 - D. Gabrielle discussed interpretive services for our meetings.
 - E. Gabrielle discussed internship and mentorship programs
 - F. Two dates have been identified for the next Regional Commission Convening - Monday, May 24th and Tuesday, May 25th. Please complete the poll by Monday, March 8th at 5 pm: <https://www.when2meet.com/?11226761-GUmgT>. Based on the Regional Commissioner's responses, the date and time of the Convening will

be confirmed on Tuesday, March 9th during the Program and Planning Committee meeting.

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G. Discussed the live stream with Senator Lesser that Gabrielle, Pattie, and Lizzy did last week.

V. Vice-Chair Report- Pattie unavailable today

VI. Old Business

A. Collaboration with Hampshire-Franklin. Social event/trivia night

B. Website still under construction- should be coming this spring.

C. Coffee Chat winter event updates

1. Collaboration with Hampshire-franklin

2. spring/summer coffee chats

Commissioner	Gabrielle	Pattie	Tara	Michelle	Shanique	Jen	Jackie	Dawn
Topic:			Housing issues connect w/ Bonnie		Legislative discussion	Essay contest winner-High tea with		C suite with the CEO
Chat Date					April	May		
Zoom Link								

VII. New Business

A. Planning for International Women's Day

1. Planning Doc w/Details
2. Finalizing plans and details
3. Run of show

B. Shanique- needs the full name and mailing address of the speakers so PP can send the checks to them. She is sending info about the event to FB and sending text messages. 1122 have gone out so far. Email blast going out Monday. Get speakers the agenda and what questions we are going to ask.

1. Chat communicators monitoring chat for Q&A to provide to Shanique as a moderator. Tara volunteered w/Gabrielle as a backup.

2. Asked if people need to be let in, yes. People need to be meeting hosts to continue letting them in.
3. Screen share off. Mute on entry. Whiteboard tied to the screen share needs to be off.
4. Monitor chat for inappropriate comments. Michelle will help too
5. Welcome to the program, quick bio of each speaker, 6:05 start, music to start the program as people come in. use the flyer as the background for people to see, and a thank you for attending.

C. EqualPayMA Roundtable Series

1. Shaitia is looking for speakers for our Mother's Equal Pay Day Conversation on May 12th at 11:00 am.

D. Policy Discussion

1. Legislation that we would like to support

E. Internship Program

F. Meeting Dates

1. April 8th - Dr. Neena Qasba
2. May 13th - Shaitia Spruell
3. June 10th - Denella Clarke?
 - a) Can use this to discuss the closing of legislative session July 31
 - b) Talk about Juneteenth

G. Swearing in of recommended Commissioner, Jacqueline Velez

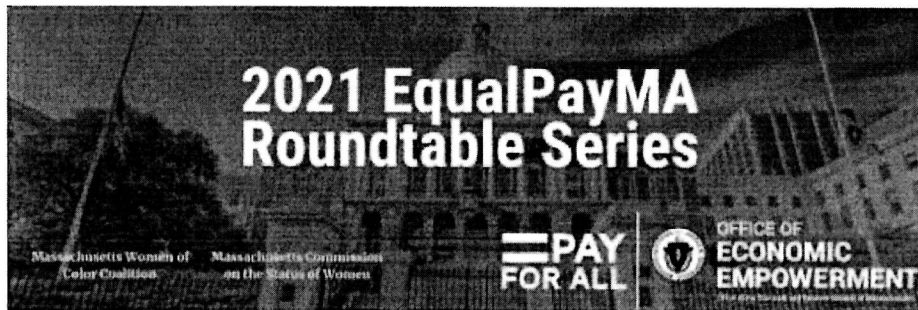
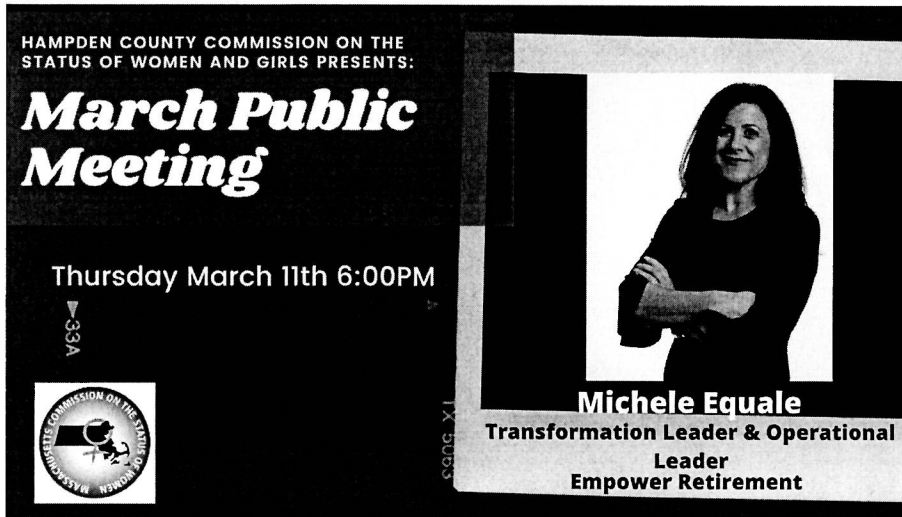
H. Virtual Advocacy Day - Advocacy Day will be held on May 19th. More details to come.

I. Commonwealth Heroines

1. This afternoon we will be opening up the recommendation form for the Commonwealth Heroines Class of 2021. Each year the Commission partners with state legislators to identify women who make outstanding contributions to their organizations and communities. Each legislator is encouraged to submit one woman from their constituency as a means of recognizing their invaluable community efforts. This submission form will be open for legislators until Monday, April 5, 2021. For more information, please visit the links below:
 2. [Commonwealth Heroine Program Book 2020](#)
 3. [Commonwealth Heroine 2021 Work Plan](#)

- VIII. Gabrielle made a motion to approve meeting minutes from Feb, we did not have a quorum so we will approve them in the April meeting instead.
- IX. Adjournment
- A. Gabrielle made a motion to adjourn at 8:14PM. Jennifer seconded.

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The Office of Economic Empowerment is hosting a yearlong virtual webinar series this year called the 2021 EqualPayMA Roundtable Series. We are highlighting equal pay days affiliated with different demographic groups, in addition to hosting general conversations regarding the shecession.

The purpose of this series is to:

- Discuss how the pandemic has influenced the wage gap
- Highlight the current state of pay inequity, leading to financial pitfalls for women and how certain industries were overwhelmingly affected by the *shecession*
- Reflect on where we've come in the five years since the Equal Pay Law was passed in 2016
- Strategize with key stakeholders, employers and chambers of commerce on what we need to do to prevent a future *shecession*