

**City of Worcester
Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**

**Meeting Summary
Tuesday August 6th, 2013, 5:30pm
Worcester City Hall, Room 401, 4th Floor**

Members Present: Sonya Atherley, Chantel Bethea, Robin Currie, Sarah Gruhin, Kathleen Linton, Jessica Donovan and Elizabeth Tomaszewski

Members Absent: Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Karen Pelletier

Staff: Jayna Turchek, Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities
Catherine Nash, Human Rights Specialist, Office of Human Rights and Disabilities

1. Call to Order:

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

2. Approval of July 2nd, 2013 Minutes:

The draft minutes from the July 2nd 2013 meeting were not complete in time for today's meeting. Ms. Bethea motioned to table their approval until the next meeting which was agreed upon by all present.

3. Women's Health Education:

A. Planning for public hearing

Ms. Bethea opened by reviewing topics of interest previously discussed by the Committee for the public hearing. The Committee's discussion covered many topics including: health equity and violence prevention (including domestic violence (DV), bullying, and other interpersonal violence.) After discussion, Ms. Bethea motioned to adopt domestic violence as the public hearing topic, seconded by Ms. Linton, and unanimously approved. The specific questions for the public will be: What DV resources did you know about? And what resources did you use? The discussion then moved into how they will conduct outreach and what the public testimony would be used for, toward what result.

As follow up, Ms. Bethea and Ms. Currie volunteered to complete an action plan for: outreach, flyers, and other materials for the next scheduled meeting of September 3rd. Ms. Bethea agreed to a suggestion of inviting Ms. Linda Cavioli to join in the planning. This action plan will be in preparation for the October 29th 2013 public hearing at 5:30pm.

4. Annual Women of Consequence Award Planning

A. A review of qualifications and application process for the Young Women of Consequence resulted in the Committee's agreement to repeat the same process of soliciting school administrative staff to share the application process with their students. The same process will be used for the Women of Consequence by soliciting organizations for their nominees. Ms. Gruhin volunteered to draft the letter to organizations.

B. Timeline for 2014 Award: The deadline for both awards will be December 23rd or the last day of school prior to the winter vacation.

5. Community Announcements

Ms. Currie announced a fundraiser September 14th with a fashion show benefit for Not For Sale at the First Assembly of God. Ms. Tomaszewski announced the Lighting the Way for a Cure October 10th at 6pm at UMass. Ms. Nash mentioned the Family Health Center Neighborhood Health Fair August 16th 11-3pm. Ms. Bethea announced the Peace festival August 15th from 12-8pm by the YMCA; a Back-to-School event on August 17th from 2:30 – 5pm; and a Women in Action event on September 11th from 4 – 8pm at Worcester State.

6. Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Bethea the meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.