

City of Worcester
Advisory Committee on the Status of Women
Meeting Summary
Date: March 3, 2015
Worcester City Hall, 4th Floor

Members Present: Chantel Bethea, Robin Currie, Sarah Gruhin, Jennifer Madson, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Kathleen Linton, Karen Pelletier

Members Absent: Athena Haddon, Elizabeth Tomaszewski

Staff: Catherine Nash, Human Rights Specialist, Office of Human Rights and Disabilities

Guests: Pamela Callahan, Human Resources

1. Call to Order:

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.

2. Welcome and Introduction:

3. Approval of the February Minutes:

A motion was made by Ms. Gruhin and seconded by Ms. LeBoeuf to accept the Minutes with the changes discussed.

4. 2015 updated ACSW brochure:

The brochure is now under review by the Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities for final approval.

5. Project/Issue assignments and report back:

- a) **Needs assessment survey:** After review of the Survey, several changes were suggested and put to the vote by Ms. LeBoeuf, and seconded by Ms. Currie. It was suggested that it be placed on the city website as well as be distributed by Members.
- b) **Infant mortality:** After an informative meeting with local emergency staff, Ms. Currie reported that much is being done in the area of infant mortality and that the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, ACSW, might collaborate on this. Further follow up on this topic may culminate with a recommendation to the City Manager.
- c) **Teen STD rates:** with Ms. Haddon absent, this was tabled until the next meeting.
- d) **Child care:** Ms. Bethea is liaising with Plumley Village and Great Brook Valley to set a date for this round table.
- e) **Employment:** Ms. Gruhin reported that the US Labor Department's information was very broad and that she will work with Workforce Central for more information, and to collect more specific issues to focus on.
- f) **STEM:** Ms. Tomaszewski being absent, this was tabled until the next meeting.
- g) **Sexual Exploitation:** Ms. Haddon being absent, this was tabled until the next meeting.
- h) **Women and Homelessness:** Ms. Linton reported that interpersonal violence, sexual exploitation and domestic violence played a large role in women's homelessness.

- 6. Update on Data/ research regarding gender disparities on women/homelessness:**
As a follow up the women and homelessness topic (above) data collected will be shared with the Human Rights Commission.
- 7. Discussion of the Joint Human Rights Commission and ACSW collaboration:**
Ms. Currie clarified that prior to future collaboration, further discussion regarding the Joint Commission Meeting had been suggested last meeting based on items from that meeting. It was agreed that it be placed on the next agenda for additional discussion.
- 8. Open Meeting Law, OML:**
Human Resources Training Coordinator, Pamela Callahan, reviewed the OML.
- 9. Announcements to share concerning community and educational events of interest and to inform and educate the women of Worcester:**
Nichols College is hosting an event March 26th 2015. The Clark University White Ribbon Campaign will take place Thursday, March 5th 2015. The member inputs agenda item had been left off the agenda and was to be added on the next and future agendas.
- 10. Adjournment:**
The meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm with a motion by Ms. Currie; seconded by Ms. Linton.