

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager



Jennifer Madson, Chair
Ariel Lim, Vice Chair
Deborah Hall
Donna Connolly
Amanda Gregoire
Krystal Vanhorne
Benjamin Roberts
Madison Friend

City Manager's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women

Tuesday May 1st, 2018, 5:45 PM

Worcester City Hall, Room 401

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Donna Connolly, Amanda Gregoire, Deborah Hall, Ariel Lim, Jennifer Madison, Krystal Vanhorne, Benjamin Roberts

Absent: Madison Friend

Staff: Jayna Turchek

1. Call to order and introductions at 5:50pm

We look forward to welcoming our newest member Madison Friend at the next meeting.

2. Review of minutes April 10th, 2018

Commissioner Connolly motioned to approve as written. Commissioner Lim seconded. Unanimous approved as written

3. New Business --Discussion

A. Discussion with Coalition for Healthy Greater Worcester regarding women's mental health

Casey Burns, Director of the CHGW, presented on the current work of the Coalition and provided an update on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Mental Health domain. Director Burns assumed her role as Director in October 2017.

Whose Plan is this? The Coalition works in partnership with the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance, Academic Health Collaborative of Worcester, U Mass Memorial Health Care, and nearly 100 other partner organizations and agencies toward implementation of the CHIP over the next 3-5 years.

The 2016-2020 CHIP has 1 overarching goal of healthy equity, with 3 core principles, 9 overarching priority areas or aims, 31 measurable objectives, and 100 actionable strategies. The nine priority areas are: Racism and Discrimination, Substance Use, Access to Care, Mental Health, Physical Activity, Economic Opportunity, Cultural Responsiveness, Access to Healthy Food, and Safety.

Background regarding the formation and structure of the Coalition: It is a community coalition that grew out of Common Pathways which was a group that led community conversations and brought into alignment other institutions. The City of Worcester Division of Public Health subsequently helped in a leadership role so that when the next CHIP was created they were able to elevate the community voice. The Coalition is the implementing body of the CHIP.



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Individuals and organizations are asked to “CHIP in” to help move the strategies identified in the CHIP. Subcommittees work on different priorities. There are also working groups that meet in different areas that hold each other accountable. Every 6 months the working groups hold community meetings where they report out on progress. Director Burns is working to develop work plans to address gaps in reporting, accountability and communication.

Chairperson Madson shared the work the Committee has done in the area of women’s mental health and inquired if there was a way to move this work forward through the CHIP mental health priority. Director Burns shared that she just came from a mental health meeting this afternoon. The group is chaired by Ken Bates and Lorie Martiska (both from the Bridge of Central MA) and has a diversity of providers and funders at the table.

Current updates by CHIP objective and strategy:

4.2 Supporting the inclusion of mental health in the next Community Assessment. CHA consultant JSI working with UMass, Fallon Health and DPH.

4.3 Shine initiative working in schools. Developing stigma reduction campaigns, education and training. They plan to launch a PSA and are applying for some funding with the hope to launch in PSA campaign in October.

Mental first aid training courses rolled out with Becker and WSU and other partners.

4.4 MOUs and collaborative care: HOPE Coalition has been working with Youth Connect Agencies to have mental health providers and counselors located at facilities, reduce stigma, offer support.

There is a new initiative between SEAC and ACE to support mental health through a coaching model.

They are exploring potential for mental health summit.

CommunityHelp is a new online platform to link making appointments and other social determinant social services. Will think through if there is a way to evolve this to the next level and have insurance companies pay for those services through a really integrated model or use that data to develop gaps in community resources.

Thinking about ways to do provider education on social determinants of health.

4.1 Rewritten (went through process for objective modification). Found wasn’t proper baseline to determine how many there were (ie hard to increase by 10%). Working group proposed modify by creating pipeline for underrepresented groups to enter and advance in the mental health field. Engaged now in a planning process to bring together human resources and executive staff to talk about obstacles to recruit and retain cultural/linguistic and racially diverse staff. It is about representative providers in the community. In hearing feedback from workforce investment board, they decided not to invest in some of the healthcare pipeline fields because haven’t seen clear trajectories in health care industries. Strongly identified as a health need, stigma and important for people getting appropriate work.

ACSW interest: 4.3.2 ACSW interest in implementing public awareness campaign especially with women’s mental health. Paul is the person who is the lead from SHINE. How can we elevate

women's mental health concerns? Chairperson Madson will be connected to Paul thru Director Burns.

Next mental health meeting: June 5th, 3:30-5pm, location TBD. All Coalition meetings are advertised on website on the community calendar.

The next Community Health Assessment is underway and there are a number of community forums (Worcester is May 23rd at 5:30pm at the Senior Center), survey, list of key informant groups, and focus groups. A critique is there is not the grassroots participation that is desired. Data that is compiled during the CHA informs and directs the strategies.

Chairwoman Madson shared ACSW's work with re-entry and visit to the regional correctional facility and wondered if there was a way to "CHIP in" in the Substance Use priority? One of their areas is related to re-entry and Narcan. The RRAP Committee is advocating in this area. Policy agenda is being created. ACSW is curious to know how they can lend support, particularly as an advisory committee to the city manager. Director Burns will connect Chairwoman Madson with the RRAP Committee as well as keep in mind the Committee when developing the policy agenda.

B. Update on Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) directory

Director Turchek provided a printout of the 34 businesses that are currently registered as Worcester based women owned businesses. She shared that the City of Worcester (Office of Human Rights and Disabilities and the Economic Development Business Assistance Program), the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Center for Women and Enterprise are partnering to develop a campaign to promote local diversity owned businesses.

The challenge is in identifying what businesses are diversity owned businesses without having them all certify at the state or federal supplier diversity offices. The partnership hopes to create a voluntary self-disclosed directory that could be housed on the City of Worcester website. The partnership held two focus groups for women owned businesses in March and participants supported the idea of a directory. Other ideas were generated for benefits and incentives women owned businesses would find helpful.

Additional focus groups for minority, immigrant/refugee, veteran and persons with disabilities owned businesses will be organized in the coming months. The Committee was asked to think about how they could support the development of a campaign. Peter Dunn from the Worcester Business Assistance Program was invited to present at an upcoming ACSW meeting to provide insight on the training and technical assistance provided to local businesses.

4. Old Business- Discussion

A. Discussion on next steps regarding request from Women's History Project and Center for Nonviolent Solutions regarding statue/official recognition of Abby Kelly Foster

Chairperson Madson talked to the board chair of Abby Kelly charter school and they want to know more about what is being discussed and are willing to provide advocacy, participation in the dedication day, potential for offering land/space for the statue.

Chairperson Madson also connected with Annette Rafferty and she is not involved in the current advocacy efforts. She also reached out to Pam Bobay and Chantel Bethea but has not heard back and will continue to reach out to invite them to an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Gregoire spoke with Bill Wallace from the Worcester Historical Museum who shared that it may be unlikely that a statue could be dedicated in time for 2020. Perhaps an unveiling of a design could be done within that time period. He has been asked by the 2020 organizing group to work on an exhibit and the museum is committed to doing women's fashion and how it has evolved over time. They are working with a historical consultant and are in touch with the Women's History Project. They are interested in doing additional programming. Commissioner Gregoire also shared about an upcoming event the museum is partnering with on Women's History and will share the flyers.

Commissioner Hall expressed disappointment in the selection of women's fashion as the exhibit and encouraged further discussion on this topic in the hopes the Committee could make recommendations.

Commissioner Gregoire shared that PowWow Worcester will be doing more than murals in 2019 and will move an idea forward to see if a mural or artwork could have Abby Kelly as the subject.

5. Notices:

- Investing in Girls Alliance, theme Beyond Inclusion, Girls Leading the Way --May 11th
- MA Commission on Status of Women Advocacy Day—May 16th

6. Review assignments for next meeting (Tuesday June 5th, 2018)

- A. Strategic Plan- Commissioner Hall requested we revisit the strategic plan at the next meeting. Priorities shift, for example Plumley Village. Mental health is not what she feels is the most important area for advocacy at this time.
- B. Follow up on CHIP and upcoming CHA community forums
- C. Update on WBE
- D. Updates on Women's History Project for the Abby Kelly recognition and 2020 planning. Invite Pam Bobay to talk in person .

7. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

(Commissioner Connolly motioned, Commissioner Gregoire seconded).