

City of Worcester  
**Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Date: April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**Worcester City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Members Present:** Chantel Bethea, Robin Currie, Sarah Gruhin, Jennifer Madson, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Kathleen Linton, Karen Pelletier, 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 5:37pm.

**2. Welcome and Introductions:**

**3. Approval of the February Minutes:**

A motion was made by Ms. Linton and seconded by Ms. LeBoeuf to accept the March Minutes.

**4. 2015 updated ACSW brochure:**

Ms. LeBoeuf will work on a large print brochure & it will be kept on the agenda for review.

**5. Project/Issue assignments and report back:**

- a) **Needs assessment survey:** Ms. Madson presented changes with a motion made by Ms. Haddon to accept, seconded by Ms. Linton & distribution methods were discussed, and need for data analysis. The final draft was to go to Liaison.
- b) **Infant mortality:** Ms. Currie will attend a Meeting of the Worcester Healthy Baby Collaborative group and update the committee.
- c) **Teen STD rates:** Ms. Haddon presented statistics to the group as well as reporting on (g) below, Sexual Exploitation. The WAASE group has formed working groups including raising awareness of issues and strengthening advocacy for legal issues.
- d) **Child care:** Ms. Bethea discussed inviting experts to speak at ACSW meetings and updated the group suggesting replacing roundtables with an open format, entitled "Answers from Experts."
- e) **Employment:** Ms. Gruhin will report back with more information next meeting.
- f) **STEM:** Ms. Tomaszewski updated the group on efforts to increase the number of students in the STEM field, provided statistics and noted a Business Journal article focusing on the topic.
- g) **Sexual Exploitation:** covered above.

**6. Update on Data/ research regarding gender disparities on women/homelessness:**

Ms Linton continues research and will report back next meeting; she is liaising with Ria House and Ms. Haddon may provide other sources. She also mentioned the Worcester Community Action Council, WCAC, has a grant regarding homelessness and employment.

- 7. Discussion of the Joint Human Rights Commission and ACSW collaboration:**  
Ms. Currie clarified that notes from the Joint meeting reflected what has been happening regarding sexual exploitation. She noted, & members agreed that police should continue to place a strong focus on demand and suggested that ACSW write a policy reflecting more specifics.
- 8. Annual Report:**  
Ms. Bethea distributed her annual report which elicited many comments. It was agreed that members would send their comments to the Liaison and that changes would be made.
- 9. National Human Trafficking Day, January 11<sup>th</sup> :**  
Ms. Currie made a motion for ACSW to coordinate an annual rally commemorating National Human Trafficking Day. A vote resulted in 2 No votes, 2 unsure votes, and 5 votes to accept coordinating it annually only if ACSW collaborated with another group on the event.
- 10. WAASE:**  
The Liaison mentioned that a WAASE speaker may be invited to a possible Joint meeting with the ACSW & Human Rights Commission in June.
- 11. Next Agenda Items:**  
ACSW brochure, follow up on Project/Issues by Members,
- 12. Announcements to share concerning community and educational events of interest and to inform and educate the women of Worcester:**  
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month; the Massachusetts Organization. for Addiction and Recovery Awareness event is April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Mechanics Hall; Spectrum's Annual Event is Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am; the Women's Leadership Conference is June 5<sup>th</sup> at the DCU from 8:30 – 4:30; it was announced that Helen Vasello, prior Woman of Consequence, had had a loss and a sympathy card was available for Members to sign; Earthday clean-up efforts are scheduled for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> ; the YWCA will host a meeting on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, benefits Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am; The City of Worcester & YWCA will hold Stand Against Racism events on April 24<sup>th</sup> with a 3-5pm rally in the Common; The Worcester County Commission on the Status of Women will hold a forum on childcare at the YWCA from 6-7pm on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 13. Adjournment:**  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm with a motion by Ms. Linton; seconded by Ms. Tomaszewski.