

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

Levi Lincoln Room – 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

ACSW Members: Chairperson Marianne Sarkis, Sarah Gruhin, Kristen Lemire, Kathleen Linton, Daisy Reeves, Jeanine Paul, Chantel Bethea.

ACSW Members Absent: Elizabeth Tomaszewski

City: Abby McCabe – City Manager’s Office

Others Present: Heidi Sue LeBoeuf of Pathways for Change and Heather Peterson.

Minutes Prepared by: Abby McCabe

1. Welcome

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Members of the Committee introduced themselves to the new Committee member Chantel Bethea and Staff Liaison Abby McCabe.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kristen Lemire, seconded by Sarah Gruhin, made a motion to accept minutes of August 31, 2011 as amended. All in favor; minutes approved.

3. Updates

Chantel summarized the Community Forum hosted by Women in Action held in September. The event was a success and was attended by the Mayor. The Forum will become an annual event that will most likely be hosted next year in August.

4. New Business:

Be the Change Awards: The Massachusetts Conference for Women will be held on December 8th and applications for the Be the Change Awards are now being accepted. The award is given to a non-profit organization that has had a powerful impact on a community and/or empowered women. The Committee members suggested Fran Manocchio as an individual and Dress for Success, Pathways for Change and the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts for non-profit agencies. The nomination submission deadline is October 24th.

Heidi LeBoeuf introduced herself and the mission of Pathways for Change. The organization was formed in 1973 as a rape crisis center and provides free

counseling services, has a hotline and provides various other resources and support systems for victims of sexual abuse. Pathways for Changes serves 47 municipalities but the main office is located in Worcester.

Heidi is a Worcester resident and is interested in becoming a member of ACSW. Abby will find out if there is a Commission opening in her district.

Pathways for Change will also be hosting a Monte Carlo event to be held at Union Station on November 11th.

Young Women of Consequence

The Committee discussed the application and the nomination distribution process. Marianne asked that this be the focus of the next meeting in October. Abby will distribute last year's nomination forms for review at the next meeting. The Committee discussed ideas of how to solicit nominations and how to reach out to a wide audience for the Young Women of Consequence awards. Sarah will contact the Women's Business Journal to look into their advertising contacts. Kristen distributed the DVD from last year's event. Abby will send copies to last year's award recipients.

Marianne will review the needs assessment and provide to the City Manager's Office for review and approval before adding to the website. Abby will work on updating the ACSW web-page to include the facebook link and other committee material. Marianne will send the ACSW facebook page link to the rest of the Committee.

The October 26th, November 16th and December 21st meetings will be held in the Dr. Green Room at the Library due to the closure of the parking garage at City Hall.

5. On a motion made by Marianne, seconded by Sarah, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.