

City of Worcester
Advisory Committee on the Status of Women
Meeting Summary
Date: December 2, 2014
Worcester City Hall, 4th Floor

Members Present: Chantel Bethea, Sarah Gruhin, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Karen Pelletier, Elizabeth Tomaszewski, Jennifer Madson

Members Absent: Robin Currie, Kathleen Linton, Athena Haddon

Staff: 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. Welcome and Introduction:

3. Approval of the November Minutes:

Ms. Pelletier requested that the minutes be changed to reflect that she proposed a representative from the ACSW attend the End Demand November Meeting and draft recommendations for give the City Manager. A motion was made by Ms. LeBoeuf to accept the Minutes with proposed changes and was seconded by Ms. Pelletier.

4. Voting on 2014 updated ACSW brochure:

Ms. LeBoeuf presented the proposed changes to the ACSW brochure. Adding the titles of Chair and Vice Chair on the name listing was unanimously agreed. Several wording changes and update of statistics will be made. Ms. Madson agreed to update it and forward for final City review.

5. Roundtable topics based upon the CHIP Survey:

Ms. Bethea reminded the committee, in Ms. Currie's absence, that she had requested the significant infant mortality rate in Worcester be considered for a roundtable topic. Ms. Bethea also suggested childcare as topic which was accepted unanimously, and that roundtables should be set for daytime hours with childcare to be provided. Ms. Madson could arrange childcare volunteers while Ms. Bethea would research possible venues. Ms. Pelletier suggested housing complexes would be good. Committee members agreed to have a specialist speaker and resources on hand.

6. End Demand project- Committee support:

Ms. Pelletier wrote a draft recommendation for City Manager Augustus. She requested further review and additions of specific facts on arrest rates of men vs. women, and proposed services for women that are arrested. Once the draft recommendation is complete, it will be forwarded to the ACSW members for first review.

7. Subcommittee formation and strategic planning:

Ms. Bethea proposed creating a subcommittee for strategic planning and the upcoming roundtables. Ms. Bethea, Ms. Tomaszewski, Ms. LeBoeuf, and Ms. Madson stated their interest in joining the strategic planning subcommittee. Ms. Currie's and Ms. Haddon's interest were also noted though they were not present at this meeting. The purpose of the subcommittee is to get momentum and bring recommendations for the ACSW to approve and forward.

8. Discussion regarding an updated Women's Needs Assessment survey:

Ms. Madson suggested that the Women's Needs Assessment survey ask for more specifics and eliminate the numbers associated with answers, to reduce confusion. Committee members agreed and advised keeping it comparable to the 2009 survey, for data comparison. Adding extra categories and topics were of interest as well. Other proposed ideas may be sent to Ms. Bethea and Ms. Nash. It was suggested that sexual assault be changed to sexual violence to reflect updated verbiage and that it be available on paper and electronically. Committee members were encouraged to share the mailing list sign up on Facebook.

9. Commission member input for next Agenda items:

ACSW brochure review, childcare roundtable progress, the End Demand recommendations for the City Manager, and any updates on the subcommittee were suggested. Other proposed agenda items may be sent to Ms. Bethea and Ms. Nash.

10. Announcements to share concerning community and educational events of interest and to inform and educate the women of Worcester:

The City of Worcester is holding the annual tree light at the Worcester Common on Friday, December 5th at 5:30pm. The Eleanor Hawley Human Rights Award ceremony is December 9th; Migrant's Day event will be held on December 12th; more information found on the website and in the C.C. newsletter.

11. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.