

City of Worcester
Advisory Committee on the Status of Women
Meeting Summary
Date: October 6th, 2015 5:30pm
Room # 401, City Hall (4th Floor)

Members Present: Chantel Bethea, Robin Currie, Athena Haddon, Elizabeth Tomaszewski, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf

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

Guests: Mr. Jeffrey Turgeon, Executive Director, Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board, Ms. Lisa Vickers, Worcester Junior League of Massachusetts, Ms. Courtney Russ Escobar.

1. Call to Order & Introductions:

There being a quorum, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. The Chair began introductions and Mr. Turgeon and Ms. Lisa Vickers introduced themselves as did all Members.

2. Approval of the September 1st, 2015 Minutes:

Ms. Bethea made a motion, seconded by Ms. Haddon to accept the September 1st, 2015 Minutes.

3. Guest Speaker:

Mr. Turgeon presented information on gender and labor market conditions, ongoing initiatives including the Bounce Life-Skills program stressing the importance of life experience in hiring, and other programs dedicated to youth employment.

4. Project /Issue assignments and report back:

- a) **Women's Needs Assessment Survey:** The Chair mentioned that the pdf versions were expected to be completed tomorrow, the Vietnamese translation was in process and ideas were shared regarding outreach with the hard copies.
- b) **Infant Mortality:** Ms. Currie will follow up efforts by the Department of Public Health on this issue and liaise with the Worcester Healthy Baby Collaborative.
- c) **Teen STD Rates:** Ms. Haddon shared that the next Worcester: Impact on Sexual Health, WISH, Task Force meeting would be October 22nd from 1:30 – 3:00PM at the Edward M. Kennedy Community Center at 650 Lincoln Street.
- d) **Childcare:** Tabled.
- e) **Employment:** (Guest Speaker, Jeffrey Turgeon; See #3 above.)
- f) **STEM:** Ms. Tomaszewski will give an update next meeting.
- g) **Sexual Exploitation:** Ms. Haddon reported the Police Department's reverse sting operations have increased both the number of men in the Community Approach to Reducing Demand, CARD, classes, and numbers of women seeking treatment. The outreach program for women based in the Woo Church provides needed support and is attended by many. Ms. Haddon also reported the success of life coaches in assisting people with the current opioid crisis.
- h) **UN Gift Box:** Ms. Currie reported that this will be pursued with prospective partners in Spring.
- i) **January 11th Human Trafficking Day Rally:** Ms. Currie will contact previous participants.

5. Members' reports:

Ms. Currie reported on the large candidates' forum she attended with discussion on infant mortality.

6. Update on policy recommendations under collaboration with Human Rights:

Ms. Currie agreed to send recommendations to Ms. Haddon for review with the Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, WAASE, group.

7. Young / Women of Consequence Planning, Y/WoC:

Ms. Tomaszewski sent the Y/WoC announcement to the Worcester Community Action Council, WCAC, and the Cable Department's PSA is scheduled to air and be posted on the website next week. The Chair invited Members to join the Library Tabling event Friday, October 16th from 11:00 – 2:00PM.

8. Review of the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women Brochure:

Members noted the updated version which had removed the Members who were no longer on the Committee and renewed outreach efforts will be made to recruit diverse new members.

9. Review of the Advertising / Applicant History:

The Chair noted the history of recruiting new candidates for the Committee and encouraged Members to continue their outreach efforts to bring the Committee to its full complement.

10. Member Input for Next Agenda Items:

As the Project Issues and Assignments agenda item covers many topics, it was agreed to list the planning for the Young/Women of Consequence, Member Reports, ACSW brochure, Input on the next agenda and announcements set for the next agenda.

11. Announcements: For October's Domestic Violence Awareness month, City Hall has the "Empty Place at the Table" display on the 3rd floor.

12. Adjournment was at 7:25 PM.