

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.  
City Manager



Jennifer Maddox, Chair  
Deborah Hall, Vice Chair  
Donna Connolly  
Amanda Gregoire  
Ariel Lim  
Jennifer Madson  
Benjamin Roberts

**City Manager's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**

Tuesday, August 1st, 2017, 5:45 PM  
Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Present:** Ariel, Lim, Donna Connolly, Deborah Hall, Jennifer Madson, Jennifer Maddox, Benjamin Roberts, Amanda Gregoire

**Staff:** Jayna Turchek, Kathy A. Esparza, Veronica Fitzgerald

**Guest:** Pam Bobay from the Worcester Women's History Project and 2020 event

**1. Call to Order and Introductions at 5:46pm**

Chairperson Jennifer Maddox called meeting to order.

**2. Review of minutes June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Commissioner Connolly motioned to approve June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Hall seconded.

**3. New Business- Conversation:**

**A. Pam Bobay from the Worcester Women's History Project (WWHP)**

- WWHP is a non-profit organization that promotes the research of local women's history, offers educational programming, and sponsors public events. The WWHP also provides research assistance, speaking engagements and collaboration on programs and projects.
- Ms. Bobay shared an update on the 2020 project, which aims to celebrate white women's right to suffrage, and stated that organizers of the project are hoping to have an official call to action on early October. Additionally, she emphasized the importance of ACSW's participation in this project.
- Ms. Bobay also made a public invitation for a joint 2020 project and Mass Suffrage meeting with a panel focused on organizing to elect more women to office. This event will take place on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Worcester History Museum at 5:30PM.

**4. Old Business- Discussion:**

**A. Women's mental health**

*i. Planning community education campaign*

- Ms. Fitzgerald compiled a list of resources on mental health campaigns previously done and WDPH staff involved in mental health CHIP working groups
- Chairperson Maddox opened discussion on the purpose of the mental health campaign and what tools the ACSW should use for this effort
- Chairperson Maddox suggested that the mental health campaign focus on educating the community on eliminating stigma from mental health. Additionally, she suggested that a video could be created for this topic.



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- Vice Chairperson Hall also suggested having a public event and Commissioner Madson suggested to perhaps release video/PSA on this public event at the YWCA (potential location)
- ii. *Continued discussion on re-entry needs for Worcester women in the Western MA Regional Women's Correctional Center*
- Director Turchek gave an update from Mr. Myles Leo about the MOAPC grant, which is an opioid prevention grant. The first strategy of this grant entails addressing the needs of the reentry population. The lead group working on this strategy is the reentry subcommittee of the Regional Response to Addiction Partnership (RRAP), which is a coalition, created through WDPH and other community partners across the spectrum of prevention, treatment, criminal justice, healthcare, schools, etc. All community members are welcome to join the planning process for this group. The next RRAP meeting is September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30am at 25 Meade St., room 109. The reentry subcommittee meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 4pm, typically in room 201 of 25 Meade Street.

The goals of the subcommittee are:

- Enhance communication between the Worcester County Jail and Chicopee Correctional Center to enhance the reentry process for inmates returning to Worcester from Chicopee
- Provide narcan trainings prior to reentry
- Provide recovery coaches/mentorship program
- Chairperson Maddox updated ACSW about the letter she sent to City Manager requesting him to meet with the women in Chicopee to listen to their needs pertaining to re-entry and mental health. Director Turchek reported the City Manager will be meeting with the Sheriff to discuss the concerns shared. He also looks forward to hearing any suggestions/recommendations that result from the tour of the Chicopee facility. Vice Chairperson Hall requested to get an email with the letter sent to the City Manager and any other updates regarding this matter.

#### **B. Planning for ACSW 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration October 2017**

- Commissioner Madson stated that Girls Inc.' staff are ready to organize the opening youth performance for the event. She requested to get a list of themes for the creation on signs of women's rights fights throughout decades. Ms. Bobay from WWHP offered to send a timeline to ACSW.
- Commissioners Gregoire and Lim will review ACSW archive to develop ACSW timeline
- Commissioner Madson asked if ACSW is doing any call to invite representatives to event
- Commissioner Madson stated that the facility for the event at Girls Inc. hosts 150 comfortably and that she is happy to help with decorations and set up logistics
- Ms. Bobay offered to collaborate by requesting food donations for event through WWHP and Oak Hill CDC
- Director Turchek will request that City of Worcester Cable Services record event. Additionally, she suggested to outreach and invite women who owns businesses in Worcester
- Commissioner Gregoire motioned to approve that Committee members send names of candidates for panel to director Turchek and the panelist would be selected by the Chair/Vice chairperson. Commissioner Connolly seconded motion.
- Commissioner Lim volunteered to be the Master of Ceremonies for the event

#### **Discussion on event's program:**

- Event timeframe: 2 hours - 5:30 – 7:30
- Theme: Intergenerational solidarity
- Event Slogan: Looking back, moving forward
- 5:30 Welcome ACSW
- 5:35 – 5:50 – Girls Inc. performance
- 5:50 – 6:20 – networking

6:30 – 6:50 – Panel on women and leadership – maybe comprised of past ACSW members who served in leadership roles

6:50- 7:00 – youth performance: spoken word piece

- Commissioner Roberts suggested to rethink order of program and maybe have the networking piece at the end

**5. Old Business- Discussion:**

**A. Planning for Young and Women of Consequence Awards March 2018**

- Commissioner Connolly said she will help to update template from last year and get it into the schools and Chairperson Maddox requested to keep this item for next meeting agenda

**B. Election of officers:**

- Chairperson Maddox announced that she is stepping down from the ACSW because she is moving out of town. She expressed her appreciation for all the work ACSW has accomplished and wished the best for the ACSW.
- Commissioner Lim motioned to table elections for next meeting, Vice Chairperson Hall seconded.
- Chairperson Maddox reminded that there are three opening for the ACSW for districts 5,4, and, 2

**6. Review assignments for next meeting (Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017)**

- Coordinate efforts with Mr. Leo from WDPH for Chicopee Women’s facility visit
- Review item B on old business section for details on ACSW 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary roles

**7. Adjournment at 7:12 pm**