

# **Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls**

## **DRAFT Minutes**

January 9, 2020

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Community Room, Palmer Police Station  
4417 Main St, Palmer, MA 01069

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

DiStefano calls the meeting to order at 6:06 PM

Present:

Dawn DiStefano (West Springfield), Michelle Goncalves (Ludlow), Jennifer Metsch (Longmeadow), Tara Marshall (Feeding Hills), Lizzy Ortiz (Springfield), Pattie Hallberg (Wilbraham) -arrived at 6:11 PM

Gabrielle Jackson (Springfield) attended as a member of the public until sworn in as a commissioner.

Absent:

Barbara McKenzie (Springfield), Shanique Spalding (Springfield)

### **II. Public Speak Out (15 Minutes)**

No members of the public present during the start of the meeting. A member of the public was recognized at 6:25 PM and stated that they attended to observe a public body and its process.

### **III. Approval of minutes from November 14, 2019**

Metsch moves to accept minutes. Goncalves seconds. In favor: Metsch, Goncalves, DiStefano. Jackson and Marshall abstained since they were not at the meeting.

#### IV. Chair Report

- a. Welcome to new members
- b. Community health needs assessment 2019 is available on line and commissioners are encouraged to review the priorities listed as many are relevant to women and girls.
- c. Youth homelessness demonstration project is creating a planning document that commissioners should review
- d. 413Cares.org is an online resource database and an interagency referral system. The organizers are working hard to get organizations to claim their sites, and commissioners are encouraged to share the site with constituents and agency heads.
- e. DiStefano reminded commissioners of the Women at Work program at the Springfield Museums and distributed minutes from their May 2019 meeting as an example of what they are undertaking.
- f. Commissioners were reminded that they need to take the MA open meeting training every 2 years.
- g. Metsch moves to accept chairs report. Hallberg seconds. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

#### V. Vice Chair Report

- a. Girl Scout cookies and the associated Girl Scouts financial literacy program will launch on Friday and commissioners are encouraged to support the scouts that they see.
- b. Metsch moves to accept vice chair report. Marshall seconds. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

## VI. Old Business

- a. Follow up discussion regarding Investing in Girls Alliance
  - i. DiStefano summarized the commission's work with the Alliance for new members and our plans to host an Alliance-type meeting in the coming year.
  - ii. Hallberg updated the commission on her work with the Alliance, including a recent \$225k grant that resulted from the Alliance, which was offered as both an example of funding that is necessary for programming and the success of the collaboration.
  - iii. Commissioners are asked to submit to the secretary the name of the agency and executive director/president that they think would be best for us to consider for a Western Mass alliance before the next meeting.
- b. MCSW grant application
  - i. Commissioners continued discussion on what items could be submitted for the MCSW grant application.
  - ii. Hallberg moved that DiStefano submit a grant application for \$700 to cover a bus from Hampden County to Advocacy Day in Boston. If there are any funds leftover, we will cover food and tshirts. Marshall seconds.  
  
All in favor. Passes unanimously

## VII. New Business

- a. MCSW Regional Convening
  - i. Commissioner report on convening
    1. Hallberg, DiStefano, Goncalves attended the December regional convening and reported on key takeaways including smaller

listening circles on specific topics (versus a large public hearing) and commissioner coffee hours.

ii. Suffrage100 MA

1. Metsch moves to submit the name of HCCSWG to be listed as a partner organization for SuffrageMA100. Hallberg seconds.

Discussion occurred around 1.) the inclusivity of the Suffrage movement (including the list of current supporters) and need for education around how the movement was only one step toward getting all women the right to vote; 2.) a new opt-out voter registration bill; 3.) if the materials are available in other languages. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

iii. HCCSWG activities report

1. MCSW asked regions to report out 3 bullets that can be included in a statewide handout. Commissioners are asked to prepare 3 bullet suggestions for the next meeting.

iv. MCSW girl initiative

1. Commissioners are encouraged to think of girl-focused initiatives that the state commission may want to work on

b. MCSW February 20 public meeting

- i. MCSW is holding a public hearing Thursday, Feb. 20 @ East Forest Park Library, Springfield. 3:45-5 PM is the MCSW meeting, 5-7 PM is the public hearing, and 7-8 PM will be the HCCSWG meeting.

c. Any Other Items That May Come Before this Body

- i. HCCSWG Calendar

Commissioners previously voted to hold meetings in Westfield, Springfield and Palmer, but commissioners were asked to consider Holyoke as an additional location. DiStefano presented a proposed calendar of meeting locations.

Metsch moves to accept the new calendar schedule and meeting locations.

Ortiz seconds. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

- ii. Commissioners are asked to consider what role they would like to take on within the commission, including helping with social media and publicity for the commission. Those who want to volunteer can do so at the next meeting.
- iii. Commissioners are encouraged to think about events happening in the area, particularly as related to International Women's Day
- iv. Ortize shared that Revitalize CDC is organizing Green and Fit Day on April 25

#### VIII. Adjournment

Hallberg moves to adjourn. Ortiz seconds. All in favor.

Meeting adjourns at 7:42 PM.