

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager



Donna Connolly
Priscilla Elsass
Madison Friend
Amanda Gregoire, Vice Chair
Deborah Hall
Ariel Lim, Chairperson
Krystal Vanhorne

CITY OF WORCESTER

City Manager's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women

Monthly Meeting Summary Tuesday October 2nd, 2018, 5:45 PM

Worcester City Hall, City Hall Levi Lincoln Chamber

Present: Madison Friend, Priscilla Elsass, Amanda Gregoire, Ariel Lim, Donna Connolly

Absent: Krystal Vanhorne, Deborah Hall

Staff: Jayna Turchek, Michelle Santana

1. **Call to Order and Introductions.** Chairperson Lim called the meeting to order at 5:46 PM
2. **Approval of August 7th, 2018 minutes.** Commissioner Elsass motioned to approve with the edit of her name being moved from the present list to the absent. She did not make the last meeting. Commissioner Gregoire seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.
2. **New Business- Discussion**
 - A. **Approve Young Woman and Woman of Consequence Award nomination forms and review publicity/outreach plan**
 - Commissioner Connolly started the discussion about the deadline. Connolly wanted to make sure there was enough time to read the materials for all nominees. In previous years, some nominees got many letters of recommendation, and it was a challenge to read all materials when there were dozens of nominees
 - Staff Turchek suggested that some of the language on the application be changed to reflect the consideration of just 1 letter of recommendation for the Young Woman of Consequence. The Woman of Consequence award does not require a letter of recommendation
 - Commissioner Connolly volunteered to help the outreach efforts by communicating to her contacts in the Worcester Public Schools when the applications open.
 - Chairperson Lim suggested that planning of the awards ceremony should be tabled for the next meeting.
 - Chairperson Lim motioned to have January 18th, 2019 be the deadline for both paper and online applications for the Woman and Young Woman of Consequence Awards, to change the language of both the paper and online application to reflect the new guideline for the letters of recommendation and to have Thursday March 7th, 2019 set as the Awards ceremony date. Commissioner Elsass seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Old Business- Discussion**
 - A. **Action summit/community forum**

Chairperson Lim motioned to table having an Action Summit for another time in order to focus on the award ceremony and other board projects. She stated that with everything is going on

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the Committee would not be able to do the event justice. Commissioner Connolly seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

B. Strategic planning (continued)

Coalition for Healthy Greater Worcester, Casey Burns presented

Burns gave an overview of the Coalition organization. She stated that out of the 9 priority areas it would make sense that the committee support and align the work of Substance Abuse and Mental Health based on previous recommendations and work from the committee.

CHIP strategy considerations:

- CHIP/Mental Health domain: (re-entry/recovery) presentation/collaboration with RRAP Regional Response to Addiction Program
- CHIP/Substance Use domain:
 - Support Recovery School enrollment by reducing barriers for underserved populations
 - Increase use of recovery coaches to provide treatment options to overdose survivors
 - Support research for innovative treatment approaches for opioid addiction treatment and monitoring including the training of the use of Narcan for women who are re-entering.

Burns had met with the Sheriff to advocate for allowing partner organizations to train women who are re-entering the system after serving a jail sentence on the use of Narcan. The Sheriff had concerns. Burns also met with City Manager Ed Augustus after. The City Manager supports the training efforts

Chairperson Lim asked Ms. Burns in what way she would like the committee to support the work? Ms. Burns responded that it can come in the form of whatever the committee sees fit. Whether it is a letter of recommendation, or another type of support.

Commissioner Lim said that the Committee would support any efforts for the re-entry training with partners. Commissioner Gregoire stated that the re-entry training for the distribution of Narcan would naturally align with the work that the committee has done.

4. Upcoming events:

A. Updates from Abby Kelley, Foster Memorial Taskforce

Chairperson Lim updated the committee

- There was a restructuring of position in charge of the Taskforce
- There will be a visioning meeting on a Saturday or Sunday of this month to discuss the parameters and vision for what the statue should embody.
- Senator Chandler met with the group and said that \$100,000 was earmarked from this year's budget for the statue.

B. Worcester Consumer Rights Program

- Staff Santana stated that she has spoken with the Consumer Rights Program about hosting a financial literacy class with a banking partner
- All discussions have been preliminary and she will report more when planning progresses.

Public comment: Elena Novak: student from Clark University is doing a two-prong research study on gender in the curriculum of Worcester Public Schools and a gender parity review of Clark University. Commissioner Elsass will connect with her after the meeting. Committee members expressed interest in the results of her study.

5. **Review assignments for next meeting (Tuesday November 13th, 2018)**
 - Casey Burns will send the Committee the data she has about the Narcan training
 - Staff Turchek and Santana will amend the Young Woman of Consequence applications to reflect new guideline of only considering just 1 letter of recommendation
 - Both the hard and online copies of the Woman and Young Woman of Consequence Awards will have a January 18th, 2019 deadline
 - It was unanimously decided that March 7th, 2019 will be the date of the awards ceremony for the Woman and Young Woman of Consequence awards

6. **Adjournment.** Chairperson Lim adjourned the meeting at 6:56 PM. Commissioner Gregoire seconded.