

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
MEETING SUMMARY**

Tuesday January 8th, 2013  
Worcester City Hall, Room 401, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor – 5:30 p.m.

**Attendees:**

ACSW Members: Chairperson Sarah Gruhin, Chantel Bethea, Kathleen Linton, Karen Manson and Elizabeth Tomaszewski

Others Present: Jayna Turchek, Director of Human Rights & Disabilities, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Ellen Delpapa, and Katherine O'Dell

**Call to Order**

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:42 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Two edits to the minutes were made. (Changed Monday to Tuesday for future meeting date and Mr. Tomaszewski was changed to Ms. Tomaszewski). On a motion made by Ms. Bethea, seconded by Ms. Tomaszewski, the Committee voted to approve the corrected minutes from December 4, 2012 by a vote of 5-0-0.

**Membership Update**

No new members. Applications in line to be reviewed by the Citizen Advisory Committee.

**Women's Health Education**

Ellen Delpapa, Chair and Katherine O'Dell, Member, from the Women's Health Community Engagement Committee at UMass presented on their current work:

The goal of their committee is to make people feel comfortable to seek healthcare. Past initiatives include: prenatal care, cancer, mitten collection. They have held programs with the African Women's Group, Boys and Girls Club as well as the YWCA/YMCA. They try to dovetail their work with other agencies' programs. The committee's main focus at one point in time was preconception information and they created the Baby Safe Haven. There is a high rate of infant mortality in the African American population and they wanted to interface with this population to dissuade women of the misconception in the community that babies die in hospitals. The African Women's Health Fair was a result of this outreach.

This year they are trying to work with the Community Health Improvement and assessment Plan (CHIP) initiatives. The Division of Public Health coordinated the assessment and is publishing the plan. Obesity is a big initiative identified in the plan and it will be the committee's big focus.

They disseminate information and conduct outreach through ads on public television, at Community Night Out and other fairs, participate in UMass sponsored events, outreach to agencies that host/hold classes (for example, YWCA and Spectrum), submit articles to the T&G, and place brochures in grocery stores. They are now starting to do web based sites but at the same time recognize deficits in this type of outreach for many people who don't have access to the internet. They suggested the ACSW may want to develop an email contact list for distribution.

One activity that ACSW may want to join together with the committee to work on this spring is organizing a safe activity with family exercise. ACSW could help to identify locations and also staff

the activity. Meetup (the online site) was suggested as a tool to outreach to more women. Jane Kimani from UMass led an African group in a walk in Greendale mall. Plumley Village also has a walking group. Some members raised concerns with safety in certain neighborhoods. Ms. Turchek suggested contacting the Worcester Active Living Council and also encouraged members to participate in the Parks Department Open Space and Recreation Plan input sessions to learn about their planning and comment.

Members will continue to make calls to agencies on the ACSW Women's Resources brochure. Assignments were given out to complete for next month.

Ms. Bethea contacted YWCA and Gina may come to speak at the next ACSW meeting.

### **MA Commission on the Status of Women**

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women will hold a regional hearing on women's issues on Wednesday January 23, 2013 from 4:30-6:30pm at the YWCA of Central MA. Ms. Gruhin will comment about the work of ACSW. Other members will also attend.

Ms. Manson prepared an elevator pitch for members to use when introducing the work of the Committee to new people. Ms. Gruhin will share it at the MA Commission on the Status of Women hearing.

### **Other Business**

Members would like to discuss the MA Open Meeting Law at the next meeting.

Ms. Bethea announced that the YWCA is having their open house until January 15<sup>th</sup>. She also announced there is a Women's Empowerment Workshop at Nichols College on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Bethea decided not to pursue submitting a proposal to the ACSW for Women In Action's January award ceremony.

Ms. Tomaszewski announced the Pink Revolution event. Ms. Tomaszewski, Ms. Gruhin and Ms. Bethea plan to attend. Ms. Tomaszewski also shared a press release from Women Impacting Public Policy on their 2012 Legislative successes. For more information go to:  
[http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.wipp.org/resource/resmgr/Issues/Summary\\_of\\_WIPP\\_Legislative\\_.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.wipp.org/resource/resmgr/Issues/Summary_of_WIPP_Legislative_.pdf)

Ms. Gruhin received an invitation to the Jane Doe Fund event: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rowe v. Wade luncheon, Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Ms. Gruhin spoke with Jill Ashton earlier last month regarding the possibility of a new County of Worcester Commission on the Status of Women. It is unknown whether the bill passed during the last session.

Ms. Turchek passed out flyers for the Human Trafficking Awareness events (film screening and training) this week.

### **Adjournment**

On a motion that was duly made the Committee adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayna Turchek