

City of Worcester  
**Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Date: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**Worcester City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Members Present:** Chantel Bethea, Robin Currie, Sarah Gruhin, Jennifer Madson, Athena Haddon, Elizabeth Tomaszewski

**Members Absent:** Kathy Linton, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Karen Pelletier

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

**1. Call to Order:**

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

**3. Approval of the April Minutes:**

A motion was made by Ms. Madson and seconded by Ms. Currie to accept the April Minutes with agreed changes.

**4. 2015 updated ACSW brochure:**

Ms. Madson will work on edits for May; it will be kept on the agenda for review.

**5. Project/Issue assignments and report back:**

- a) **Needs assessment survey:** Ms. Madson will finalize; Liaison will do cover letter. Ideas for distribution included: each member to outreach to five organizations and survey monkey, and will be discussed further next meeting.
- b) **Infant mortality:** Ms. Currie will report back after the June Healthy Baby Collaborative meeting.
- c) **Teen STD rates:** Ms. Haddon's offer to invite a speaker from W.I.S.H. (Worcester Impact Sexual Health) was met with interest by all members.
- d) **Child care:** Ms. Bethea will arrange for Ms. Torres to speak at the June ACSW meeting.
- e) **Employment:** Ms. Gruhin met with staff at Workforce Central and noted the employment topic touches all other aspects from education to domestic violence, to benefits and services received. The topic will be narrowed in focus upon further study.
- f) **STEM:** Ms. Tomaszewski reported that while State and National level data exist, Worcester's data will be available in the Fall through a formal request to the School Committee.
- g) **Sexual Exploitation:** Ms. Haddon reported that good progress is being made noting that arrests for Johns were made in a recent sting operation, and that the Police Department is now working closely with the Advocate in coordinating services for women entering the court system. Local businesses are lending community support to help end sexual exploitation. The WAASE Quarterly Task Force meeting is 5/11/15 at 5:30pm at the Department of Public Health.

**6. Update on Data/ research regarding gender disparities on women/homelessness:**

As Ms. Linton was absent this was tabled until next meeting.

**7. Annual Report:**

Revisions were discussed and the Chair will make final edits.

**8. National Human Trafficking Awareness Day planning:**

Members discussed reaching out to organizations that are involved with this issue (RIA House, YWCA, Pathways for Change, among others.) Ms. Currie will discuss and report back on groups that can assist in the planning work and outreach for the event.

**9. WAASE discussion of Joint Committee Meeting:**

It was decided that the Chair will reach out to invite the Human Rights Commission members to meet with the ACSW Members at City Hall just prior to the Joint Meeting at 6:00pm June 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Levi Lincoln Room.

**10. Next Agenda Items:**

A coordination meeting prior to the Joint Committee meeting will take place.

**11. Announcements:**

Resource Fair at the YMCA/Murray Street Park Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 5pm

Mass. Coalition to End Trafficking meeting Saturday, May 16th

Women's Leadership Conference, DCU June 5<sup>th</sup> from 8 – 5pm

Advocacy Day at the State House Boston, Thursday, May 14th all day event

Mass. Committee on the Status of Women's Unsung Hero award, State House Boston, June 17<sup>th</sup>

Ready Inspire Act (RIA) Houseevent is coming up; watch for more details.

**12. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm with a motion by Ms. Tomaszewski seconded by Ms. Gruhin.