

City of Worcester  
**Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Date: January 6, 2015**  
**Worcester City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Members Present:** Chantel Bethea, Robin Currie, Sarah Gruhin, Athena Haddon, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Kathleen Linton, Jennifer Madson, Elizabeth Tomaszewski

**Members Absent:** 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 5:41pm.

**2. Welcome and Introduction:**

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

A motion was made by Ms. Linton to accept the Minutes and was seconded by Ms. LeBoeuf.

**4. 2015 updated ACSW brochure:**

Ms. Madson will make adjustments to font size and spacing, and send to Ms. Nash for final approval with the updated revision date.

**5. Project/Issue assignments:**

1 to 2 committee members will gather information on relevant issues, and report back on each issue for February meeting. Members will research and gather information regarding community needs, community concerns, and information regarding work that is currently being done on these topics. Information prepared for February meeting will inform future roundtable issues. Members will report back their information to share with all Members at the February meeting.

- a) **Needs assessment survey:** Ms. LeBoeuf and Ms. Madson will begin revision and create a timeline for distribution and collection.
- b) **Infant mortality:** Ms. Currie will prepare information for February meeting.
- c) **Teen STD rates:** Ms. Haddon will prepare information for February meeting.
- d) **Child care:** Ms. Bethea and Ms. Madson will prepare information for February meeting. Plumley Village staff have agreed to host a round table discussion regarding childcare needs. Ms. Bethea will collect prospective dates; Ms. Madson will secure volunteers to provide childcare during the roundtable discussion.
- e) **Employment:** Ms. Gruhin and Ms. Pelletier will prepare information for February meeting.
- f) **STEM:** Ms. Gruhin and Ms. Tomaszewski will prepare information for February meeting.
- g) **Prostitution:** Ms. Haddon will prepare information for February meeting.
- h) **SMOC:** Ms. Bethea, Ms. Haddon, Ms. Linton, and Ms. LeBoeuf will share research regarding 5 year trends of women and homelessness with the Human Rights Committee.

**6. Discussion of January 13 joint meeting with Human Rights Committee:**

Joint meeting will be at 5:30p.m. on January 13, 2015 in the Levi Lincoln Room at Worcester City Hall. Committee members will receive an update on City and Worcester Police department priorities and actions regarding ending demand of prostitution in Worcester. Ms. Haddon will share relevant background information with committee members prior to joint meeting.

**7. Commission member input for next agenda items:**

It was proposed that the ACSW discuss the ACSW brochure, project/issue information, and January 13 joint meeting at the February meeting. All information gathered regarding the projects/issues may be given to Ms. Bethea and Ms. Nash prior to February meeting for dissemination.

**8. Announcements to share concerning community and educational events of interest and to inform and educate the women of Worcester:**

- a) January 10, 2015: Worcester Caribbean Fashion to Stop the Violence at Doherty High School 5:00p.m. \$5 suggested donation.
- b) January 13, 2015: Joint meeting between Human Rights Committee and Advisory Committee on the Status of Women to discuss ending demand of prostitution in Worcester. 5:30p.m. Levi Lincoln room, City Hall.
- c) January 13, 2015: City Council Meeting- Proclamation will be read at 7:00p.m.
- d) The MA Commission on Status of Women plans a conference call to discuss sexual health lobby day, endorsed legislation, new legislation, Hampshire/Hamden, and actual term of parental rights, and prioritizing legislation to push. 3:00p.m. (712)432-0390 code 513073#.
- e) January 25, 2015: Jane Fundraiser at Maxwell Silverman's at 11:30a.m.
- f) January 28, 2015: Shatter the Myths presented by HOPE Coalition and Worcester Youth center at the YWCA at 5:00p.m.

**9. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23pm.