

**City of Worcester Advisory Committee on the Status of Women
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 1, 2021, 5:45 PM**

Virtual meeting on Cisco WebEx:
advisorycommitteeonthestatusofwomenwebex@cow.webex.com
This meeting was not live streamed. A video recording is posted on the city website.

Members Present: Kayanna James, Coretta McCarter, Samantha Sendrowski, Tracey Whitney, Rubby Wuabu

Members Absent: Heather Borelli and Casey Thomas

Staff: Jayna Turcek

Call to order and instructions for virtual participation

The meeting was called to order at 6:18pm

Review and approval of May 4, 2021 meeting minutes

Committeewoman James made a motion to approve minutes as written and Committeewoman Sendrowski seconded to approve the May 4 meeting minutes. All approved.

Old Business

Approve report on the impact of COVID-19 and the family structure

Committeewoman Sendrowski led the review of final edits. This is a point in time report, we will continue investigations this year and fill in gaps. Incorporated highlights from recently published MA Commission for the Status of Women Report on the Impact of women of color Updated COVID numbers based on most recent City reporting. Added vaccines approved for children 12years and up. Vaccination numbers also updated. Trends continue where people of color continue to have lower vaccination rates. Added information relative to vaccine hesitancy and skepticism. Added that COVID-19 Equity Taskforce has been creative in hosting community vaccination events. Added that healthcare was more difficult to access, in particularly for women of color. Also added anxiety and depression continue to be affecting women. Economic mobility MCSW highlights. Women of color report being impacted at twice the rate of non-women of color.

Discussion about MCSW statement about vaccine hesitancy. History shows women of color have been mistreated, it is a fact. The statement comes from the survey itself. We have to acknowledge where the mistrust comes from, it is historically a fact. All agreed to insert the following: "The City of Worcester Advisory Committee on the Status of Women wishes to make clear the mistrust is justified from historical evidence of structural and institutional racism."

Committeewoman James motioned to approve the report as written. Committeewoman Wuabu seconded. The Committee unanimously approved.

New Business

Election of Officers for FY22

Chairperson McCarter shared that she has accepted a new position that will advance her career and require more of her time. She therefore will be resigning from the Committee. Everyone congratulated her on this exciting opportunity and stated that she will be missed.

She also announced that Ariel Lim had to resign as well due to other commitments.

The floor was opened for nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Committeewoman Wuabu.

Committeewoman Wuabu nominated Committeewoman Sendrowski as Vice Chairperson. She accepted the nomination and is interested in the position.

Vice chairperson James self-nominated for Chairperson.

Committeewoman Wuabu withdrew her self-nomination for Vice chairperson.

Chairperson McCarter seconded nomination for Vice Chairperson James as the new Chairperson. She also seconded nomination for Committeewoman Sendrowski as the new Vice Chairperson.

On a roll call vote (5-0) Kayanna James was unanimously elected to Chairperson.

On a roll call (5-0) Samantha Sendrowski was unanimously elected to Vice-Chairperson.

Members were encouraged to recruit new Committeewomen to fill current vacancies.

Review calendar for guest reporting (topics and requests for data) on the status of women

Committee reviewed the draft calendar. This is a working document for the year. Committee agreed to address/continue conversation regarding healthcare next month. From a planning perspective Director Turchek requested that the Committee agree on agenda topics for July and August.

Committeewoman Wuabu volunteered to assist in preparation with the two meetings this Fall to address gender based violence.

Committeewoman Whitney volunteered to assist in preparation with the preparation for the August Art and Culture topic.

Vice Chairperson James raised concern about having time on agendas to work on projects. Suggested that presenters prepare reports in advance and limit presentation/Q&A time each meeting so that there is time for check ins/discussions on Committee programming. Committee agreed to talk about September and October agendas in July. Agreed to wrap up healthcare discussion in July and August will address women in art and culture.

Update project proposals and timelines for FY22- TABLED

Committeewomen requested to review and be prepared for conversation next month.

Next Meeting: Tuesday July 6, 2021 at 5:45pm

“No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow.” -Alice Walker

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15pm