

# Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

## Minutes- DRAFT

April 8, 2021

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6895726626?pwd=aDdCTEpPSlkwa2pxd29VZDRqZStkQT09>

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call -Gabrielle called meeting to order at 6:05PM
- II. Tara did roll call-
  - A. Present: Gabrielle Jackson, Dawn Distefano, Lizzy Ortiz, Jennifer Metsch, Michelle Goncalves, Tara Marshall
  - B. Not Present- Jackie Velez, Patricia Hallberg, Shanique Spalding
- III. Discussion with our featured guest, Dr. Neena Qasba, Baystate Wesson Women's Clinic
- IV. Public Speak Out- No public present at this time.
- V. Approval of minutes from March 11, 2021 and February 11, 2021 minutes Gabrielle made a motion to approve minutes from February, Jen moved, Michelle seconded and all approved. Jen moved to accept March, Michelle seconded, all approved
- VI. Chair Report-
  - A. Gabrielle talked about how awesome our Women's History month event was. Much props to Shanique Spalding.
  - B. Gabrielle discussed Sascha leaving the commission
  - C. Full commission meeting 4/22/21 at 4PM
  - D. Girl's Initiative every wednesday at 4PM if we want to help plan. The roundtable discussion is 4/20-4/22
  - E. Gabrielle meets with Shaitia from MCSW once a month to get updates etc and shares the info with us. Typically 1st Friday of the month.
  - F. Advocacy day is 5/19-more info below in New Business
- VII. Vice Chair Report- Pattie wasn't present this evening
- VIII. Old Business
  - A. Women's History Month Follow up and Celebration
    1. Lizzy said she feels like we need to do this more than once a year because it was such a great event and we should at the very least do it again.
    2. Tara suggested we could do it whenever we wanted. Perhaps do a Local Women's History and do a spotlight on a local woman from each county.
    3. Lizzy suggested a Young Women's History Month. Give them a moment or celebration so they can see the trajectory from a young lady to a woman and help empower them. We could learn from each other.
    4. Michelle said International Day of the Girl is in October.
  - B. Coffee Chat Winter Event Updates
    1. Collaboration with Hampshire-Franklin
    2. Spring/Summer Coffee Chats

IX. Old Business

- A. Women's History Month Follow Up and Celebration
- B. Coffee Chat Winter Events Updates.

X. New Business

A. EqualPayMA Roundtable Series

- 1. Shaitia is looking for speakers for our Mother's Equal Pay Day Conversation on 5/12/21 at 11am- email Shaitia with any recommendations

B. Policy Discussion

- 1. Planning for legislative breakfast- Michelle suggested we could do two kinds, the legislative breakfast discussing things we want to back, or just do like a meet and greet on zoom so our local legislators can meet us and learn about us and we could all decide what we should support. Looking like early June would work best perhaps. We will plan it in May meeting after Shaitia and then do the event in June.
- 2. Legislation that we would like to support
- 3. Springfield Municipal Events:
  - a) Nonpartisan
  - b) Partner with an organization that is doing forums
    - (1) Partner with women
    - (2) Candidate forum
    - (3) Ready to run-training series
    - (4) Virtual trainings
- 4. Internship program- briefly discussed creating this, Gabrielle asked Michelle for tips and ideas. We would need a project that we would need an intern for, like if we needed research done. Tara suggested a research project for an intern could be researching legislation about women/girls and present it to us so we could vote on what we would want to support.
- 5. Meeting dates
  - a) 5/13 Shaitia Spruell
  - b) Lizzy wants to invite Mydalis Vera for June meeting
  - c) 6/10 Denella Clark
    - (1) Can use this meeting to close the session July 31st
    - (2) Talk about Juneteenth-Uplift a person of Color

XI. MCSW Events

A. **Semi-Annual Convening of the Regional Commissions (Action Item)**

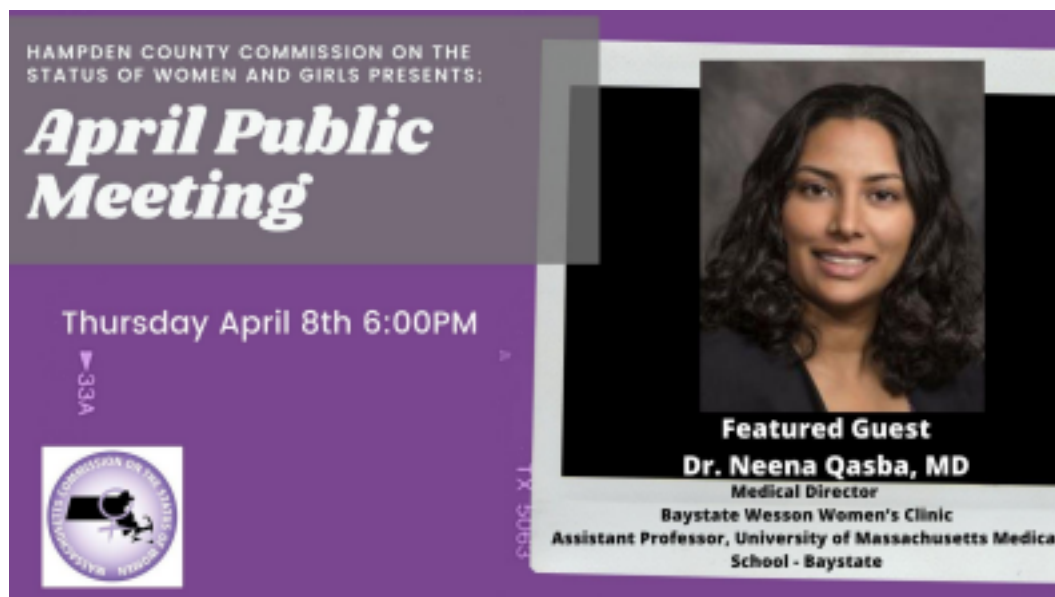
- 1. Two dates have been identified for the next Regional Commission Convening - Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please complete the poll by Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm: <https://www.when2meet.com/?11226761-GUmgT>. Based on the Regional Commissioner responses, the date and time of the Convening will be confirmed on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> during the Program and Planning Committee meeting.

- XII. **Virtual Advocacy Day** - Advocacy Day will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. More details to come.
- XIII. **Commonwealth Heroines**

- A. This afternoon we will be opening up the recommendation form for the Commonwealth Heroines Class of 2021. Each year the Commission partners with state legislators to identify women who make outstanding contributions to their organizations and communities. Each legislator is encouraged to submit one woman from their constituency as a means of recognizing their invaluable community efforts. This submission form will be open for legislators until Monday, April 5, 2021. For more information, please visit the links below:
1. [Commonwealth Heroine Program Book 2020](#)
  2. [Commonwealth Heroine 2021 Work Plan](#)

Adjournment- Gabrielle called the meeting to adjourn at 7:33PM- Michelle moved, Tara seconded and all in favor.

### **About Our Featured Guest:**



Dr. [Neena](#) Qasba is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist with subspecialty training in Complex Family Planning and an Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School-Baystate. She completed her OBGYN training at Indiana University and completed her fellowship at Yale University. She also earned a M.P.H. in Health Policy and Management at Yale University. She is interested in policy implementation science and her current research focuses on the area of reproductive health. She currently serves as the Medical Director of Wesson Women’s Clinic at Baystate Medical Center, which provides comprehensive OB/GYN health services and specialty services for the local community and serves as regional referral center. She focuses her time on process and quality improvement using a health equity perspective.

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