



County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Minutes DRAFT

July 9, 2020

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Online via Zoom:

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

Please contact hccswg@gmail.com for the meeting password

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM
 - i. Marshall did the role call. Present at the meeting were:
 1. Gabrielle Jackson
 2. Dawn Distefano
 3. Tara Marshall
 4. Michelle Goncalves
 5. Jennifer Metsch
 6. Patty Hallberg
 - ii. Absent
 1. Shanique Spalding
 2. Lizzy Ortiz

II. Public Speak Out (15 min.)

- Kayla Silvers discussed her concerns about children missing out on valuable social skills by not being in school. Worried about schooling at home and keeping kids engaged. She is a science teacher, wants to work on dialog skills and build on it in the next school year. Empowering young girls to have the confidence to speak out as well as all kids. General engagement with the community is hard right now.

- Metsch discussed a website www.sidebysidevoices.org during this time, launching on Monday, July 13th. Could be a great project for Kayla's students.
- Each commissioner present gave Kayla a small bit of background info about themselves, personally and professionally.

III. Approval of Minutes from June 18, 2020.

- Hallberg moved to accept minutes and Goncalves seconds. All in favor.

IV. Chair Report

- Jackson thanks and appreciates the group and is looking forward to working with our commission.
- Has no official report at this time.
- Hallberg moves to accept and Metch seconds. All in favor.

V. Vice-Chair Report

- Has a suggestion. The past few months in quarantine has seen a rise in domestic violence. Would like to invite Liz Dineen from YWCA to our next meeting in September so we can discuss this.
- Goncalves makes a motion to approve the report, Metsch seconds, all approved.

VI. Old Business

- Social Media
 - i. Coffee with a Commissioner. Jackson shared her screen. She created our flyers for the events.
 - ii. One commissioner a week in August. Post on social media what the topic will be that the commissioner wants to discuss.
 - iii. Start sharing our bios in August since there is no public meeting.
- MCSW Girls Initiative- no updates
- Open commissioner position
 - i. No updates on applicants yet. One position open, most likely will get information in August/September and the review usually is in October.

- ii. The group noted that we wish positions could be filled faster instead of annually. Suggestion to mention it to MCSW. Positions should be filled as they are needed.
- New Business
 - i. Create a collaborative press release and a statement. Jackson asked for some thoughts and reservations about it.
 - ii. Distefano made a motion to approve Gabrielle creating the press release and sending it out without us reading it first. Hallberg seconded it. All in favor. Hallberg is sending Jackson the contact list.
 - iii. Collect email addresses to send out information to people. Jackson suggested sending surveys through Mail Chimp to get birthdays and stuff like that so we can send notices and keep in touch with our constituents.
 - iv. Marshall mentioned Women to Watch USA for Western MA <http://www.women2watchusawestma.com/resources/> resource page and that the Commission should try and be listed. Currently, it has Girls Inc, Women's Fund of Western MA, Unify Against Bullying, and Dress for Success Western MA. Contact is Dee Ferraro and Hallberg will reach out to ask about the resource list. Metsch mentioned 413cares.org as well. Distefano suggested Connecting Point (Metsch volunteered to contact someone there), a Sunday TV show and Mass Appeal. Distefano suggested reaching out to the chair of the Hampshire Commission to work together and get on Mass Appeal.
 - v. Jackson asked if she is able to pay for things on her own on behalf of the commission, ex. A membership to a group.
 - vi. Jackson mentioned community-based events in August to have like a town hall. Could do this with a coffee with a commissioner time slot. Could find someone that is an expert in a topic that we want to discuss. We could do a Q&A.

- vii. Jackson brought up trying to find a way to amplify youth voices. Added to the agenda to discuss for the September meeting. Community Speak Out to get girls maybe high school age to come and talk. Discussed permission slips etc.
- viii. Jackson asked about streaming our meetings on Facebook Live. Do we need permission to go live? We believe the Zoom page can be linked to Facebook so the meeting can be shown live on our page.
- ix. Jackson asked about the website. Hasn't heard anything yet. She hopes to get an OK to create a website. Marshall mentioned taking a new group photo for the Facebook page with current members.
- x. Hallberg brought up zoom meetings and how long are we going to do them before we can start meeting in person again. Add this to the September agenda to revisit and see if in-person meetings are allowed yet.
- xi. Adjournment
 - 1. Jackson made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 pm and Metcsh seconded. All approved.