

**Chairperson**  
Aaron Richman

**Vice chairperson**  
Cara Berg Powers

**Clerk**  
Lillie Williams



**City of Worcester  
Human Rights Commission**

**Members:**

Shawna Curran  
Kathleen Gervais  
Izaida Gonzalez  
Robyn Kennedy  
Ike McBride

**Meeting Summary for October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
Boys and Girls Club, 65 Tainter Street, Worcester, MA 01610

**Members Present:** Aaron Richman, Lillie Williams, Shawna Curran, Robyn Kennedy, Ike McBride, and Izaida Gonzalez  
**Members Absent:** Kathleen Gervais and Cara Berg Powers  
**Staff:** Jayna Turchek

- 1. Call to Order and Introduction:** A quorum was established and the meeting called to order at 6:13pm. The Commission introduced themselves and also welcomed the newest Human Rights Commissioner Izaida Gonzalez.

Dr. Matilde Castiel was welcomed as the new Commissioner of Health and Human Services for the City. She is a medical doctor affiliated with UMass Memorial Medical Center and is an Assistant Professor at University Massachusetts Medical School.

- 2. Approval of August 3rd, 2015 meeting minutes:** Unanimously approved as written.
- 3. Old Business**

**A. Review of shelter survey:**

Aaron provided the background and history on our shelter survey so that Izaida would be caught up to where we are in the review process. Lillie Williams gave a report back on her interview with Catholic Charities. Re-assignments were given out regarding the remaining shelters to be surveyed. Cara and Robyn will start to summarize the reports.

**B. Review of Human Rights Commission Annual Report:**

We are late in submitting, because we wanted to do it better. We will submit what we have and agreed we would document as we go throughout the coming year and have an outline by June. Everyone agreed we will be in a better position and this will keep us on track. Shawna will create template for outline of next year's report. Izaida also offered to create a form that could be used for Commissioners' reports to document details about the community initiatives and events.



OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS & DISABILITIES, CITY HALL  
455 MAIN ST., WORCESTER, MA 01608  
TELEPHONE (508) 799-1152 | FAX (508) 799-1208



**C. Status report regarding policy development related to human trafficking/sexual exploitation:**

Robyn is the liaison working with the liaisons from the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women and Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (WAASE). She talked about continuing to dialogue about how to expand services, perhaps a focus on housing, for women who are being trafficked. Maybe we can have another joint meeting when the time is right.

**D. Report back on review of Worcester Dialogues on Race Notes:**

The Chair started the conversation by asking if anyone had any questions or concerns around their review of the notes and identification of the issues. Members raised a lot of concerns and questions, and a number of ideas were generated but no recommendations for action were agreed upon.

There was a discussion of whether or not to create a subcommittee or add another general meeting in order to put together an action plan.

Shawna offered to share her notes and recommendations with the Commission.

The conversation will be continued at the next Commission meeting.

**4. New Business**

**A. Review of online media policy:** Tabled

**5. Commissioners' Reports:** Tabled

**6. Location of Next Meeting (November 2nd, 2015):** to be determined

**7. Public Comment:** Dr. Matilde Castiel introduced herself as the new Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

**8. Adjournment:** 8:05pm