

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager



Jennifer Maddox, Chair
Deborah Hall, Vice Chair
Donna Connolly
Amanda Gregoire
Heidi Sue LeBoeuf
Jennifer Madson

City Manager's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women

Tuesday January 3rd, 2017, 5:45 PM
Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber 3rd Flr.

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Donna Connolly, Amanda Gregoire, Deborah Hall, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Jennifer Madson
Absent: Jennifer Maddox
Staff: Jayna Turchek and Dr. Mattie Castiel
Guest: Ann Marie Shea, President of the Steering Committee, Worcester Women's History Project

1. Call to Order and Introductions at 5:56pm

Deborah Hall chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair Jennifer Maddox.

2. Review of minutes December 15th, 2016- Tabled

3. New Business:

A. Invitation to collaborate on 100th year anniversary of women's rights to vote event

Ann Marie Shea from Worcester Women's History Project (WWHP) shared that they are planning an event for the 100 year anniversary of the Women's right to vote in 2020. They received permission from the City Manager to list the Committee as a collaborating group for the kickoff event Sunday January 15th, 2017 from 1-3pm at the YWCA. She distributed flyers. The Committee looks forward to collaborating. Deb, Jennifer Madson and Heidi all committed to attend the January 15th event.

B. Request for assistance with mental health awareness campaign for women

Dr. Castiel asked for the Committee's assistance with an awareness campaign to address women's mental health. The Department of Public Health has been working on improving mental health in the community. We know that depression, PTSD and anxiety, to name a few major illnesses, affects women differently than men. Mental health affects families, employment and our community. There is a shortage of mental health practitioners. How do we educate and get people into treatment? How can we get more women to participate in treatment? 1 in 5 people suffer from mental illness.

In New York City the Mayor's wife has a campaign. One thing they do is to hold one day events in churches to talk about mental health. In Worcester Mayor Petty was chosen as a champion of mental health. There are things we can do.

How can the Committee help?

1. How can the Committee add to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) campaign?
2. Mental Health First Aid trainings (for women) to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms and what to do and where to go for help. Get community leaders involved.
3. Forum/summit with women advocates on mental health

c/o Jayna Turchek, Director of Human Rights & Disabilities
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Follow up:

- Dr. Castiel will provide data specific to women's mental health to the Committee at an upcoming meeting
- Jennifer Madson will research area groups to see what they are doing in this area

4. Old Business- Discussion:

A. Planning for 2017 International Women's Day (March 8th)

Deb spoke with Maritza Cruz from the YWCA. They are planning an event for March 8th, 2017 in the evening. MA Attorney General Maura Healey is confirmed as the guest speaker. The ACSW will join as co-organizers. Maritza will send Deb information for the next planning meeting and Deb will share with ACSW members. Jenn Madson, Amanda and Heidi all expressed interest in helping.

B. Planning for ACSW 40th year anniversary (2017)

Heidi asked Ann Marie if the WWHP would be interested in collaborating on an event to commemorate the 40th year anniversary of the ACSW and she agreed. Heidi offered to be the liaison with WWHP to collaborate on the event.

Amanda refreshed the Committee's memory that they proposed a May date for this event as a networking event. Heidi inquired if there was a date this year that would also align with another significant event in Worcester's women's history. Ann believed the 1850 Women's convention happened in the fall. It was agreed that the Committee will plan for a Fall event.

Jayna shared that an intern is going through the archives to collect a list of all past Committee members. Past members will be invited, prospective members, and young women. Heidi would like to ask some of the former members (women leaders in Worcester) to talk about their experiences on the Committee, what they did, how it shaped their lives and what they are doing now.

Follow up:

- Heidi will start to generate a list of women and feminist organizations to invite to the table
- Donna will connect with the Women's Initiative through the United Way

5. Strategic planning follow up:

A. Review compilation of topics for future discussion/goals/deliverables

Economic literacy:

Amanda shared that she reached out to Merrill Lynch about the gender specific programming for an Equal Pay Day event in April. She will report more next month.

Confirmed the following topics will be part of the Committee work plan:

- Women and Mental Health Awareness Campaign
- 100 Year Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote

B. Review timeline

Upcoming events: April Equal Pay Day (date, location, venue and invitees TBD February)

6. Adjournment at 6:31 pm