



Matilde Castiel, MD  
HHS Commissioner

**CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Division of Youth Opportunities**

Raquel Castro-Corazzini  
Director of Youth Opportunities

**City Manager's Committee on Youth Agenda**

Tuesday, September 19th, 2023 at 3pm

**Zoom link:**

<https://clarku.zoom.us/j/96715184204>

- I. **Call meeting to order - Permission to Record! - Present**
  - A. **Jen Safford, Judi Kirk, Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Casey Burns, Nana Owusu-Boahene (Youth Council), Bryant Cortes, Jeury Abreu, Laurie Ross**
- II. **July minutes and notes - Motion to Approve (Judi Kirk), Seconded by Casey Burns.**
- III. **Update on previous action items -**
  - A. **DYO will send out the Equity tool and be prepared to present it at the next meeting.** - Equity tool was sent to the group to go a week prior.
  - B. **Speak to the CM about the changes we would like to see for the CMCOY charter. Adding and changing positions.**
  - C. **Jen Safford will Invite Frankie to come for the September meeting instead of the August. He would share what the CAB is working on and what they are deciding to fund.** - Jen Safford was not able to send a reminder for him to come and present on the CAB.
  - D. **Revisiting the vice chair position and figuring out what we would like to do and who we would like to appoint.** - Has been hard to find someone for this position as most folks are busy. Committee members like the idea of the vice chair being a Youth Counselor. Judi Kirk presents the idea of having youth from other leadership groups within the city. Raquel stated that in one of the Youth Onboarding training, she learned about having a buddy system until they felt more comfortable. Question is, how can we provide the support for the youth to be part of the Committee on Youth? The Committee agrees that a youth should be the vice chair. When speaking to the Youth Council representative, Nana, Raquel asked what her experience in the committee was like? Nana states that she sometimes is a bit lost on what she is supposed to do, vs youth council, where she has things to work on and do.

#### IV. Updates -

- A. **Raquel** - After meeting with the city manager, one of the things discussed was about an agenda for youth. The CMs office hopes that this is something the Youth Council would work on. The Committee would have an important role to implement a Community Health Improvement Plan for Youth (CHIPY). We would work with HGW through Casey Burns to start working on an assessment and help create the report which would help create the Agenda for Youth. This could possibly connect to the Shannon and SSYI grants work being done. Group will need to create an ADHOC to work on creating the timeline.
- B. **Utilizing the Equity Tool** - We would need to update the charter around DY0 and Youth Services. We would also need to choose pieces of the equity tool that we would like to write into the charter. This would help us identify who and what we are missing in the committee.
- C. **Moving to in person?**- Most members are unable to make it in person during the school year, thus we will continue to make the meetings through zoom. Jen Safford and Jeury Abreu will bring recommendations to in-person meetings
- D. **CMCOY Operations** -
  - 1. **Vice Chair of Committee** -
    - a)
  - 2. **Vacant seats** -
    - a) (3) Youth serving organizations - **Raquel Castro - Corazzini, Judi Kirk**
    - b) (1) Mental health/substance abuse treatment provider - **Bryant Cortes?**
    - c) (1) Social service provider - **Casey Burns?**
    - d) (1) Workforce Investment Board member
    - e) (1) Health care provider
    - f) (1) Philanthropic
    - g) (1) Economic development or business provider - **Virginia Parent**
    - h) (2) Higher education - **Laurie Ross, Brianna Turner?**
    - i) (1) Youth Coalition - **Jennifer Safford - Faquharson,**
    - j) (1) Faith based provider -
    - k) (2) Parents -

**3. Possible charter additions -**

- a) **Utilizing equity tools to fill the Positions ?**
- b) **2 youth seats from the Community Advisory Board Members ?**
- c) **Add WPS positions to CMCOY - Director of Family and Community Engagement? - Casey Starr & Deborah Gonzalez ?**
- d) **DA's office position - Add to Charter?**

**E. DYO -**

- 1. **Youth Council** - Setting up an in person once per year meeting between CMCOY and Youth Council. The Youth Council will start to meet next week and will be creating a calendar for the fall on what they plan on working on. Their main project will be to put together a proposal for the city manager regarding Youth issues in Worcester. The Youth Council would like to make their first proposal about mental health, and thus they will be doing research into the current policies and processes around mental health in the city.

**F. Youth Violence Prevention -**

- 1. **CAB** - Will have an update when Frankie Franco joins CMCOY to speak on the CAB. He has been invited to join the next meeting.
- 2. **Governance Council** - A lot of the Governance Council was very receptive to the CAB report and like the idea of working with the youth. The CAB report will be presented to CMCOY.

**V. Announcement -**

**VI. Action Items -**

- A. **ADHOC (Judi Kirk, Raquel Castro-Corazzini, Jen Safford, Laurie Ross, Casey Burns)** - will work on a timeline of everything we will need to accomplish to create the Youth Agenda. Jen Safford will set up next meeting.
- B. **All members** - Collecting all the data points that would need to inform the Youth Agenda and send to Jeury Abreu including the CAB report and the Children's Almanac from the Research Bureau.. Jeury will put everything together and provide it to the ADHOC by October 1st.
- C. **DYO, Judi Kirk & Jen Safford** - Go through the Committee Charter and create a proposal for the changes based on the equity tool provided. Raquel Castro-Corazzini will set up the next meeting
- D. **DYO** - Implement regular check-ins to Youth Council about things they would like to bring up to the Committee on Youth.

**VII. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn - Judi Kirk, Seconded by Bryant Cortes.**