

City of Worcester Advisory Committee on the Status of Women

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES– Tuesday November 1, 2022, 5:45 PM

<https://cow.webex.com/cow/j.php?MTID=mec5f5ee5dbf88ebdea1960bf33c1f400>

Meeting number: 2311 267 6845 Password: G2TmSkhjA32

Call in: 415-655-0001 Access Code: 2311 267 6845

Spanish subtitles available

Members Present: Esther Boama-Nyarko, Jennifer Hernandez, Kayanna James, Marcia Macri (virtual), Samantha Sendrowski, Tracey Whitney

Members Absent: Heather Borelli

Staff: Jayna Turchek

1. Call to order and Introductions

Kayanna James called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm. Kayanna James welcomed members of the commission and those present. Quorum was established on a roll call 6-0-0.

2. Review and approval of September 6, 2022 meeting minutes

Samantha Sendrowski motioned to accept the minutes as distributed for the September 6, 2022 meeting. Jennifer Hernandez seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved on a roll call vote of 6-0-0.

3. New Business

A. Welcome new Committeewoman Jennifer Hernandez

The Committee welcomed the newest member and Ms. Hernandez shared a brief introduction. Kayanna James reminded everyone that there are two additional openings on the Committee for residents in districts 1, 2, or 3. The next selection meeting is November 14, 2022. Those interested are encouraged to apply online at www.worcesterma.gov/boards-commissions.

B. Reflections on domestic violence awareness month- Chairperson struck from the agenda as guests were not available.

C. Reproductive equity minute

Dominique Hardy, Director of Race and Equity at the YWCA of Central Massachusetts

All Worcester Advocating for Reproductive Equity (AWARE) is a newly formed Coalition with members from YWCA of Central MA, Jane Fund of Central Ma, NAACP, Planned Parenthood, Pathways for Change, Racism Free Worcester Schools, League of Women Voters and AIDS Project Worcester. Coalition came together with common purpose and goal of advancing reproductive equity. The Coalition started with a candidate forum. Most recently they held a rally for reproductive equity. Just because Roe v. Wade has been overturned does not mean our voices will be silenced.

She also shared information about their upcoming virtual Fall Forum:

Reproductive Equity- *Post Overturning Roe v Wade: What's Next?*

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM over Zoom. It is a virtual panel. They will discuss the history of Roe v. Wade and the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning the constitutional right to abortion. They will examine what this ruling specifically means in black, brown, transgender and gender diverse communities and what we can do about it.

They welcome partnership in these endeavors and look forward to continued partnership.

Chairperson James and Vice-Chairperson Sendrowski both attended the rally and Chairperson James had an opportunity to speak. She shared enthusiasm about the Coalition and continued work.

D. Planning for December/January meetings

Esther Boama-Nyarko confirmed she will be the lead on these meetings to review the Community Health Assessment and other existing data on gender.

Preliminary questions for DPH:

- Do they have any sex/gender disaggregated data? If not, why not and what are the next steps to obtain or start collecting?
- Interest in better understanding of the CHA including the survey methodology and prioritization process

- Hard to tell which issues are impacting women from the CHA, can they provide data?
- For example, there are gaps between number of women serviced by Pathways for Change and number of sexual assaults reported to law enforcement.

Committeewoman Boama-Nyarko welcomes additional questions from Committeewomen prior to next month's meeting.

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is available online for reference and review prior to the next meeting. Committeewomen encouraged to review: www.worcesterma.gov/building-a-healthy-community

4. Old Business

A. Planning for 2023 Women of Consequence Awards

Nomination criteria and google forms:

Committeewomen reviewed forms and made additional edits. The forms were approved for distribution on a unanimous roll call vote.

Theme:

The following suggestions were made: Grit, Leading Authentically, Leading Loudly, Bold, Cracking the Code, Leading With Our Authentic Selves, Leading Out and Proud

The UN 2023 International Women's Day theme is not yet available.

Committeewomen will continue to discuss and agree on a theme next month.

Outreach plan:

Committeewomen reviewed the contact list for outreach for the young women of consequence award self-nominations. Submissions for the young women have historically taken more effort to generate and Committeewomen are encouraged to commit to making one on one outreach appeals to teachers, counselors, and mentors in area schools and youth programs. Committeewoman Hernandez volunteered to help designing promotional graphics/flyers.

Next month women will volunteer to go in person to do outreach and share nomination information with schools and businesses.

Vice-chairperson Sendrowski has made contact with area universities and they will share information about the nominations to distribute on their campuses.

Chairperson James asked if the Committee could have access to share over the City of Worcester LinkedIn account. Jayna Turchek will inquire.

Potential keynote speakers:

Senator Harriett Chandler, Deb Hall, Karen Pelletier, Robin Kennedy

When a theme is decided it may be easier to choose a keynote.
To be continued next month.

Entertainment/arts components to program:

Dance performance.

Suggestion to have the Worcester poet laureate again.

Have an interactive board with what you would like to see for women in Worcester this year?

Is there an app that we could use to live poll attendees and display responses on a screen?

Chairperson James will create a google doc to generate additional ideas.

Samantha Sendrowski will continue to talk with area universities to see if there is interest in partnering in the award this year.

Kayanna James will reach out to the reporter from Worcester Magazine to see if they are interested in highlighting this year's awardees again this year.

5. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm with the approval of a motion made by Ms. James and seconded by Ms. Sendrowski (6-0-0).