



Wednesday, August 2, 2017 8:30am-10am

YWCA of Central MA, 1 Salem Square

### Minutes

Call to order – 8:40AM

1. **Attendees:** Peter Van Voorhis, Mona Ives, Megan DeNubila, Margaret Hurley, Mattie Castiel, Linda Cavaoli, Cara Henderson, Jayna Turcek, Kathy Esparza, Sharon McQueen, Ann Lisi, Joseph Bellil, Rev. Jesse Gibson.
2. **Discussion and sharing of concerns around recent national/local news/events:**
  - a. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Case ruled that local law enforcement officials do not have the authority, under state law, to honor so-called ICE detainers. The detainer – which is not the same as an arrest warrant, requires proof of probable cause and a judge's signature -- gives ICE up to two days to look into a person's immigration status and potentially pursue deportation. The Supreme Judicial Court's decision in *Lunn v. Commonwealth* means individuals that would normally be released cannot be held solely on the basis of these requests from federal immigration officials.
  - b. In response to the SJC case, Governor Charlie Baker filed legislation on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 that would permit local law enforcement to detain unauthorized immigrants at the request of federal officials. Hurley from the AGO said that the bill would likely face MA and US constitutionality challenges.  
<http://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/Massachusetts-SJC-Court-Officers-Cant-Arrest-Immigrants-Based-on-Federal-Detainers-436319063.html>  
  
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/08/01/baker-files-bill-allow-local-law-enforcement-detain-certain-unauthorized-immigrants/58RpjL2RqjGDkAxvtomcfM/story.html>
  - c. The City of Boston started placing posters in public spaces to encourage people to say something if they are witnessing a hate crime – please see article below for more information <http://www.wbur.org/news/2017/07/17/boston-islamophobic-harassment-psa>
3. **Updates from AGO**
  - Sanctuary Cities: AGO has joined lawsuits across nation to stand against federal threats of cities and states that adopted or practice sanctuary city status. Amherst and Ipswich have

filed 2 bylaws declaring themselves as sanctuary cities. The AGO is set to review and approve those bylaws this September.

- Affirmative Action in Higher Education Admissions: The DOJ is proposing to file lawsuits against any colleges and universities perceived to discriminate against white applicants. In 2016 the US Supreme Court case *Fischer v University of Texas* gave universities latitude in considering race as one of the many factors in a "holistic" evaluation of an applicant, but rejected the notion of fulfilling a racial quota. The most recent DOJ announcement is viewed as another conservative challenge to affirmative action. The Justice Department is seeking attorneys willing to investigate, and possibly sue, over "intentional race-based discrimination" in college admissions. The US Attorney's office has not received any guidance from Washington DC regarding college or university affirmative action policies.
- Henderson offered to invite Attorney Torey Cummings to come and speak in our next meeting about current efforts. Ann Lisi suggested that we open it up to the public.
- Hate Crimes Hotline: Hurley did not report specific number about hate crime reports; however, she mentioned that, to her understanding, there haven't been any major incidents reported in Worcester. AGO has been focusing on incidents that have arose in North Hampton. Additionally, she mentioned that some information about hate crime cases can be found AGO press releases.
- Public Listening Sessions on Health Care Community Benefits: opportunity to hear from the community to inform the process of updating guidelines for non-profit hospitals and HMOs (Please see flyer attached for more information).
- In light of this conversation, the following proposals were suggested:
  - For CABH to request that the City Manager make statements in response to some of the messages coming out of the White House that are irresponsible and provide license for discriminatory actions and the perpetuation of racist, discriminatory, and homophobic narratives. CABH members suggested using examples such as the recent tweet declaring a ban of transgender persons in the military as well as Trump's comments supporting and normalizing police brutality.
  - Encourage distribution of signs that support immigrant rights and zero tolerance for hate throughout the city. For example: no place for hate campaign
  - Education forum on affirmative action

#### **4. Diversity practice exchange: Mona Ives and Megan Denubila**

##### **Mona Ives, Ansaar of Worcester**

- Ansaar of Worcester: is a registered non-profit agency providing charitable services to underserved families in the Worcester area, especially refugees. One of Ansaar of Worcester biggest focus is accessibility. Ansaar of Worcester provides interpreting services by appointment and translation of documents in Arabic and Somali. For information, please email Mona at [ansaarofworchester@gmail.com](mailto:ansaarofworchester@gmail.com) or find Ansaar of Worcester on Facebook.

##### **Megan Denubila, Worcester Department of Public Health**

- Worcester Partnership for Racial and Health Equity (WPRHE): the partnership compiled and approved a list of shared language (see handout attached) that serves as a starting point for all the conversation that we hold in our day-to-day work. The WPRHE also wants to incorporate this language in all CHIP working groups and is encouraging community partners to incorporate the language. Additionally, the WPRHE is looking to hire an intern to look at organizations' mission statements and see how directly or indirectly they address health equity and eliminating racism. If interested in joining the WPRHE or for additional information, please e-mail Megan at [DeNubilaM@worcesterma.gov](mailto:DeNubilaM@worcesterma.gov).

#### 5. Debrief Responsible Journalism Forum

- CABH members who attended event thought it was a great event and important space to share information to the public. They thought panelists were dynamic and knowledgeable on topics discussed.
- Suggestion to improve:
  - Partner with colleges and host another forum when colleges are in session.
  - Host another forum that tackles local issues around media construction and consumption.
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#### 6. Proposals for Fall Educational Forum

- Please e-mail Jayna at [humanrights@worcesterma.gov](mailto:humanrights@worcesterma.gov) by August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with any suggestions for our fall education forum.
- So far these are some of the suggestion that have been given:
  - Affirmative action
  - Panel to include Attorney Torey Cummings on civil rights & education

#### 7. New Business/Suggestions for upcoming items

- Proposal for CABH to adopt Worcester Partnership for Racial and Ethnic Health Equity racism terminology. ***Please read handout prior to our next meeting.***
- Voting on topic for fall educational forum

#### 8. Announcements:

- Public Listening Sessions on Health Care Community Benefits – August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017
- Hate Has No Home Here Campaign – August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Michael Botticelli Talk – August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017
- Candlelight Vigil – International Overdose Awareness Day – August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017
- Undoing Racism – September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (Boston)
- Recovery Walk – September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017
- Preventing and Responding to Hate Speech in Schools – October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Information on Stop Bullying Coalition

#### 9. Next Meeting: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Diversity Exchange presentation from AGO and WPD

## Planning for Fall Educational Forum

Remaining meetings in 2017:

December 6<sup>th</sup> – Diversity Practices Exchange TBD