



Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls July Public Meeting Meeting Minutes

September 08, 2022 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Online via Zoom: [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/6895726626?pwd=aDdCTEpPSlkwa2pxd29VZDRqZStkQT09> Facebook Livestream: [Link](#)

Please contact hccswg@gmail.com for the meeting password

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call -Tara called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM. Present were Tara, Jackie, Shanique, Gabrielle. Alina, Kim, and Nikki were not present.
- II. Public Speak Out (15 mins)
- III. Approval of minutes from July 14, 2022, Jackie called for a motion to approve the minutes, Tara made a motion to approve and Gabrielle seconded.. however, we realized that we do not have a quorum as Lizzy had to abstain. Approval will be done in next month's meeting.
- IV. Chair Report-Learning about new things for the commission and learning about her new role. Rebranding and QR codes. There will be a landing page on the Mass Commission website that will link to our page with our info and meeting times etc. They will be providing travel reimbursement and it will be at a quicker rate. We can do this once we start traveling to in-person meetings. The chair discussed the upcoming grant, and info located in New Business. Advocacy Day is 5/21/23 and Mass Commission would like as much participation as possible with as much advance notice as possible. The in-person Mass Commission is having a hearing in P-town on 9/27, also virtual.
- V. Vice-Chair Report- Commission had to move their legislative meeting because of the primaries. Two bills may pass in an informal session. Members of the commission are lobbying for these; the campaign funds bill and the I Am. bill. A general election in Springfield Ward 5 next week. Two sister commissioners ran for this and they could choose to run again in the fall. We will also be hearing about the driver's license bill for undocumented people, it would allow undocumented people to get licenses. It was vetoed by the Governor but was then overridden. Diehl collected enough signatures to add it to the ballot as question 4. The question will be asking to overturn this law.
- VI. Old Business Follow-Up

- A. On Prison Moratorium- Jackie tried reaching out to them to get information but hasn't been able to get any information recently.
- VII. New Business
- A. Regional Grant Discussion- one is open for the fall for \$2500. If we apply we have to create a budget of what we are going to do with the funds. The deadline is 10/3/22. The Spring cycle is due 2/6/23 and should open in early January. Funds can be used for office supplies, marketing materials, speaker honorariums, etc. Money goes directly to the entity we get service from or we get reimbursement but we do not get a direct check. The Mass commission prefers paying the approved vendor directly. Any money approved has to be money spent in that current cycle. Definitely, we want to apply for Spring, for this Fall we will see if we can fund some gift cards. We can also use funds for commission meetings, we could cater the meetings.
 - B. Jackie is in a documentary getting aired at HCC next month and will follow up with us on the date. Finding the Words.
 - C. Speakers Plans- do we want to keep doing them monthly or spread them out every other month or quarterly? Spreading them out, we could have more time to promote them and get more people to attend. We agree that quarterly speakers are best. The first speaker will be in December. Shanique suggested finding someone that works at a shelter. Lizzy suggested the director of Womenshelter/Companeras in Holyoke. Lizzy will reach out. We will plan for an in-person meeting and if it is a snow day it will be virtual.
 - D. Calendar of Meetings in Person v.s. Virtual- pick one place to have our regular meetings and then decide in the future about when and where to visit all the other towns in Hampden County. Research needs to be done on what is available to us.
- VIII. Jackie called the meeting to adjourn at 7:34 PM. Shanique made the motion, and Tara seconded, all in favor.