

MONROE COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Friday, April 14, 2017

Monroe County Public Library, Room 2A

Commissioners attending:		Volunteers attending:	Volunteers not attending:	Guests:
Amanda Barge	Catherine Stafford	Ann Birch	Leslie Fasone	Charlotte Zietlow
Nancy White	Shirley Fitzgibbons	Monica Dignam	Jacqueline Fernette	
Josh Coker	Ann Collins	Yvonne Zhao		
Liz Feitl				
Commissioners not attending:				
Lara Weaver	Shelli Yoder			
Carol McCord	Regina Moore			

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Amanda Barge and Catherine Stafford.

1. Approval of agenda
 - a. Motion to approve as amended: Liz; second: Nancy; approval unanimous.
2. Approval of minutes from March 2017
 - a. Several corrections were made. Motion to approve as corrected: Nancy; second: Shirley; approval unanimous.
3. Report from City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW) liaison
 - a. See Attachment A from Regina Moore.
4. Proposal on survey to single parents
 - a. Charlotte Zietlow requested permission to present a proposal to the commission on a survey for single parents in Bloomington (Attachment B). Charlotte was involved in the creation of the BCSW; at that time she wanted to also collect relevant data but that has not actually been done. Charlotte is also going to present to BCSW. The data she is seeking involves economic development for single parents. Many unskilled jobs are now gone. Charlotte has worked in the past for Middleway House in economic development and the problem has worsened since then. She is proposing to survey single parents in person to accumulate information on their situation and help determine how jobs can be created for them. It would involve 250-300 surveys and it would be done in person. There are three basic parts to the survey: info on income, info on time use, and a narrative. The data would be brought together in a report to be presented to economic development people, who currently do not focus on this group. Charlotte asked for support from the commission.
 - i. Shirley mentioned that the information from the township trustees forum from last year might be of interest. She thought the narrative would be the most valuable part of the survey, that the data could be obtained elsewhere. Charlotte said that the data part of the survey provides a framework for the narrative. The person-to-person survey would help to develop relationships across the community.

- ii. Monica mentioned that grant money would be available for the survey but that the project would need more infrastructure.
 - iii. Nancy asked if Charlotte has talked to the Chamber of Commerce and the Bloomington Economic Corporation. She also proposed that the commission have a committee to follow this project.
 - iv. Shirley mentioned that the project ties in with Pay Equity Day: Liz mentioned that no one is talking about job sharing as an option, which would be advantageous to single parents.
 - v. Catherine suggested the survey include asking about the barriers that single parents face when job seeking.
 - vi. The commission asked to get an update from Charlotte after she talks to other groups. After the update, the commission will decide on how to proceed.
5. Discussion about 2017 and 2018 (Catherine, Amanda, Liz)
- a. The commission held a brainstorming session to work on plans for 2017 and 2018. Below is the list of issues that were raised. Note: “a” means topics is related to incarcerated women; “b” indicates an issue the commission is already addressing.

i. Education	ii. Sexual abuse (a,b)
iii. Domestic violence	iv. Pay equity (a,b)
v. Incarcerated women	vi. Drug use (a,b)
vii. Foreign-born women	viii. Immigration
ix. Use of old hospital	x. Housing (a)
xi. Child abuse and neglect (a)	xii. Women owned businesses/jobs (a)
xiii. Transportation	xiv. Running for office
xv. Mental health (b)	xvi. Poverty (basic needs) (a,b)
 - b. Discussion:
 - i. Nancy: there’s a model for married graduate students that would be helpful (MCCC).
 - ii. Yvonne: international students experience housing discrimination and don’t know where to go for help.
 - iii. Shirley: Friends of the Library will bring in Jamie Ford as their Power of Words speaker on November 17th. He is the author of the Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet, about discrimination, immigrants, and the Japanese internment camps but also a powerful romance story. One possible part of that program may be a panel with a discussion of discrimination and immigrants. Shirley is on the library's Power of Words committee and would like to possibly have our commission co-sponsor such an event.
 - iv. Nancy: commission has been talking about influence in the legislature and funding 211. Summer would be a good time to progress on this. Nancy, Ann C., Monica, and Catherine are interested in lobbying. Monica will determine which state legislature committees will be meeting and report back.
 - v. Amanda: commission will be keeping up with current committees.
 - vi. Shirley: would like to work with Josh/Yvonne and others on the issue of discrimination of foreign-born women including immigrants and refugees, possibly working with El Centro and Exodus.
 - vii. Nancy: There is a new drug abuse program for youth similar to DARE.

c. Below is proposed issues and timing for the next year:

i. Summer 2017

- Amanda and Shelli will be doing an opioid summit and will invite the commission. They suggested that the commission work on women's issues under this topic. Nancy and Shirley volunteered.
- Lobbying legislature (Nancy, Ann C., Monica, Catherine)

ii. Fall 2017

- Tie in foreign born women and housing discrimination possibly with Friends of the Library program in November or International Human Rights Day (December 10). Should involve students so it would need to be when university is in session. Also could invite an attorney with specialty in housing discrimination. Also cover isolation of foreign-born women (Shirley, Josh, Yvonne).

iii. Winter 2018

- Incarcerated women and ongoing programs (no volunteers yet for this)

iv. Spring 2018

- Pay equity day involvement (include women owned businesses?, SCORE?) (Ann C., Catherine summit or panel)
- Women in government

6. Review of Pay Equity Day

- a. Program went very well with good turnout; videos excellent.
- b. Only two responses to post-program survey out of 25 sent.
- c. Good example of collaboration with city commission.
- d. Many thanks to Leslie and her office and students for their work on publicity and documentation.

7. Review of Women's History Month luncheon.

- a. Luncheon went well.
- b. The question was raised as to whether the commission needs to take more formal participation in the luncheon. It was decided that the current informal status works well. Catherine will offer MCWC help with next year's luncheon in advance of the next city commission meeting.

8. Announcements from the Commissioners

- a. No announcements.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann F. Birch

ACTION ITEMS:

Monica	• Determine state legislature committees meeting this summer.
Amanda/Shelli	• Invite commission to opioid summit.

Catherine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with city commission to offer help with next year's Women's History Month luncheon, thank them for cooperation on Pay Equity Day, and see if they're interested in collaborating on Pay Equity Day again next year.
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Next MCWC Meeting: Friday, May 12

[MCWC Website](#)

Commissioners			Volunteers
Amanda Barge (co-chair)	Shirley Fitzgibbons	Lara Weaver	Ann Birch, clerical
Joshua Coker	Carol McCord	Nancy White	Monica Dignam, research
Ann Collins	Regina Moore	Shelli Yoder	Leslie Fasone, IU
Liz Feitl (vice-chair)	Catherine Stafford (co-chair)		Jacqueline Fernet, CBCSW
			Yvonne Zhao, IU

Subcommittees and Members

- Monroe County Health Survey Think Tank: Liz, Shirley, Nancy (contact), Josh
 - Basic Needs Working Group: Liz, Josh
 - Mental Health/Substance Abuse Working Group: Nancy, Shirley
- 2-1-1 Connect to Help: Liz (contact), Lara
- Transportation for rural women and families: Monica, Amanda (contact), Liz
- Sexual violence against women: Amanda, Josh, Carol, Nancy (contact)

Support Areas

- Investigation of funding sources: Monica
- Developing coalitions inside and outside the county for legislative action this summer: Liz, Monica

Attachment A

Report to the Monroe County Women's Commission

From: Regina Moore, Liaison from the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women

4-14-17

The CSW had its regular monthly meeting on April 6th.

Most all of the commissioners were present, along with staff Sue Owens, and a volunteer recorder, Donna Goings.

Amanda Stephens, the newest commissioner, noted that she would have to resign from the commission as she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and would be studying in India for the next year. She is leaving at the end of the school year. This leaves the commission short three members, two mayoral appointments and one council appointment.

The agenda included the review of the following:

Women's History Month Lunch – the committee that produces this lunch is made up of commission members and interested members of the community. The committee gave a report and included a few recommendations for next year. A record number of tickets were sold, and although very few people used the Q-code on the back of the program for evaluation, it was felt that the program went well and the speaker was very, very good. The date for the lunch next year will be March 21, 2018.

Women's Leadership Development Event – Beth Kirk was the point person on this event from the commission, but again, community members and even former commission members were involved in the planning as noted on the program. Most of the discussion focused on respect and civility expectations regarding the panel. Noted also was declining attendance at this event, and the committee will review possible reasons and work to increase attendance next year.

Equal Pay Day – just a brief report from Regina and Penny, the two city commissioners who worked with Liz and Shirley, county commissioners to plan the event. There were about 50 attendees, we have captured about 25 email addresses of attendees. Again, an evaluation form was sent by Regina to all the attendees, but there hasn't been a good rate of return. The Ellettsville Girl Scouts took home \$150 for Pantry 279, and handed out literature about their pantry.

Leadership Scholarship Initiative – These scholarships are given out as they are requested. Megan Hutchison had requested funds to attend a conference for an Association of Fundraising Professionals Conference in San Francisco at the end of April. The commission recommended funding her at the same level that Lotus is funding her, \$200. Part of the agreement in the award is that the recipient return to the Women's Leadership Development Event to share some of their experiences with other women.

We also had a discussion about membership recommendations and council interviewing process for the commission's seats. Many members would like to see various organizations that deal with women and girls represented on the commission. The discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Emma, our high school liaison, reported that she was working on several speakers to come to BHSNorth for sexual assault awareness month. Two of them are from the CSW.

Attachment B

PROPOSAL FOR SURVEYING SINGLE PARENTS MONROE COUNTY

Purpose: Gather solid specific information about the status of single parents (primarily women) in Monroe County, acquiring facts about several facets of their daily lives.

Long range goal: determine what sorts of employment opportunities would best serve the workers of this cohort in our community.

Tasks

A: would include face to face personal surveys of 250-300 women and men re:

1 - Basic data: Number of children, ages of children and parent, level of education, special training, special interest

2 - Financial issues: what is income, , employer(s), what benefits do people have, how is money spent, saved debt

3 _ food habits, diets, special needs, medications

4 - housing: rent, own, general condition

5 - as[sorations economically, in terms of work and outside of work

6 _ education, sports, extracurricular activities, entertainments

7 - other

WE would have to develop a release form and a promise of privacy protection for both subject and surveyor to sign

B: Additional survey to determine time demands:

1 - daily schedule: wake up, meal times, routine activities: work, school, appointments, meetings

2 - "Free" time activities, rough estimate of both when and how much time are devoted to sports, arts,, reading, visiting with friends...

C_ since these will be surveys conducted in person, the surveyor will presumably engage in informal conversation with the informant, and will inevitably come away with a story about the family. This will also be part of the whole survey.

When we have gathered data from the financial and time records, and stories from conversation, we will compile a report. We will work with economic development folks who have been successful in creating businesses and who are creative and imaginative in their thinking and , using our data develop business proposals that would result in employing these and other folks appropriately.

I use the Confidential Document Destruction and Middle Way Food Works as models for this process,, not as businesses, but as ways of creating businesses.