

Members of the Commission are appointed from the community by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners and the Monroe County Council. Membership includes a representative from Indiana University and a liaison from the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women.



Commissioners Joshua Coker and Iris Kiesling.

Commissioner	Appointed By
Amanda Barge	Board of Commissioners
Liz Feitl (vice-chair)	Board of Commissioners
Debby Herbenick	Board of Commissioners
Lara Weaver	Board of Commissioners
Iris Kiesling	Board of Commissioners
Shirley Fitzgibbons	Council
Joshua Coker	Council
Nancy White (chair)	Council
Position Open	Council
Carol McCord	Indiana University
Position Open	City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women

MCWC Website:

<http://www.co.monroe.in.us/tsd/Government/Commissioners/MonroeCountyBoardsandCommissions/WomensCommission.aspx>

Meetings:

Second Friday of each month at noon in room 310 at the Monroe County Courthouse. The public is welcome to attend.

Contact: Nancy White, nwhite38@hotmail.com, 812-824-4426

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Monroe County Women's Commission

Focus Areas:

- ◆ Needs of Rural Women
- ◆ Equality in the Workplace
- ◆ Health Care
- ◆ Family Issues

The Commission shall serve in an advisory role to assist residents, businesses, and the government of Monroe County, Indiana, in addressing issues of gender equity in all aspects of society.

The Monroe County Women's Commission was founded in 2011.

Research and Projects



Volunteer Monica Dignam and chair Nancy White at the 2015 Women's History Month luncheon.

Brainstorming sessions conducted each year explore areas of need where the Commission can gather information and determine focus in order to have an impact on the community. A primary long-term focus is the needs of rural women. Below are a few examples of recent research and projects.

Fair Survey at Monroe County Fair

The MCWC conducted a written survey during the Monroe County

Fair. Over forty women completed at least part of the survey. Four top challenges emerged: 1) childcare, 2) fair wages, 3) safety/violence, 4) health care/mental health care.

Township Trustees Focus Group

As a follow-up to the input from the survey distributed at the county fair, the Commission invited township trustees to a focus group. The discussion during the focus group reiterated the four challenges that the county fair survey highlighted. In addition, trustees also brought up issues such as reliable transportation, rent control, and assistance with budgeting.

Health Care and Resources for Rural Women

The Commission sponsored a community forum on mental health care for women, which evolved into a forum on women's health care in general. The report from this forum was used as a basis for an extensive list of resources for rural women to address health care and other issues.

2-1-1 in Indiana is a free 24/7 information and referral service that provides callers with options to seek services they need. The Commission is exploring working at all levels of government to ensure proper funding for this important community service and promoting it to both information seekers and agencies providing services.

Wage Equity

The Commission supports Bloomington's Fair Labor Initiative, which encourages local restaurants to comply with fair labor practices and provides display decals for business owners who sign a compliance agreement. The Commission is following efforts to raise the minimum wage by attending forums and connecting with legislators in support of a living wage.

Violence Against Women

Representatives from Indiana University presented to the Commission a review of the Sexual Assault Climate Survey and other IU programs to educate students on sexual violence. Among many discussion items raised from this study is applying the data to the experiences of young women in the local area.

Collaboration with other Women's Groups

The Commission is exploring opportunities statewide for collaboration with other groups concerned with women's issues. Collaboration will allow for sharing of successful initiatives and will encourage connections between individual women and elected representatives.
