

# MONROE COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

July 18, 2024

Commissioner	Attendance	Appointed by	Term date
Susan Hingle, Chair	Present	MoCo Comm	1/1/26
Maria Douglas, Vice-Chair	Present	MoCo Council	1/1/25
Juliet Hardesty, Secretary	Present	MoCo Council	1/1/26
Tiana Iruoje	Present	MoCo Council	1/1/26
Molly Otto	Present	MoCo Comm	1/1/25
Kathleen Sobiech	Present	MoCo Comm	1/1/25
Jennifer Belton	Present	MoCo Comm	1/1/26
Jennifer Crossley	Absent	MoCo Council (ex-officio)	
Vacant	Absent	MoCo Comm (ex-officio)	

Voting Members: 7

Quorum Numbers: 4

Meeting Minutes completed by: Juliet Hardesty

Location: Nat U Hill Room, Monroe County Courthouse

## Call to Order 5:31 pm

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

The mission is to advance the status of women and marginalized genders in all areas of county life.

### I. Approval of Agenda (All Approve)

- A. Commissioner Douglas motions to add General Commissioners Update to regular agenda after Chair and Vice-Chair updates; same motion as June 20, 2024 meeting **(All Approve)**
- B. Update monthly agenda template to add General Commissioners Update **(Action Item)**

### II. Approval of Minutes (All Approve)

- A. 2024-06-20
  - Motion passes

### III. Chair and Vice-Chair Updates

#### A. Commissioner Hingle (Chair)

- Thank you to Commissioner Douglas for running June 20 meeting and to Commissioner Hardesty for recording minutes; Happy to be back!

#### B. Commissioner Douglas (Vice-Chair)

- July 18 is Black Leaders Awareness Day; July is Sarcoma Awareness Month; July 25 National Schizophrenia Awareness Day; July 30 International Friendship Day and World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
- Women's Market with Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women happening on Saturday, July 27 from 9am-1pm; Women's Commission should sign up for volunteer shifts (Commissioners Douglas and Hardesty have signed up so far)
  - a) Possible materials for MCWC tabling at Market
    - 1. Information sheet about MCWC with QR code to apply to the commission;

QR code for Women's Build for Habitat for Humanity (Commissioners Sobiech and Belton on team but it is not a MCWC team)

2. Information on county public health services
  3. Flyer for Women's Health Fair on September 28 at Banneker Community Center
- Community Conversations with ACLU (called Idea Raisers) happening around the state and might come through Bloomington; jail case is on hold right now because there has been "forward movement"; Commissioner Douglas shared jail tour experience with ACLU and that it is getting better but still problems with capacity limits; ACLU only has 19 people on staff to cover state of Indiana
  - Hoosier Asian American Power (HAAP) hosting community conversations – Sunday July 21 in IU Indy Taylor Hall; July 31 on Zoom; August 11 at MCPL – talking to folks who identify as Asian Americans about their interests, needs, and how HAAP can support them

#### IV. General Commissioners Updates

- A. Commissioner Hardesty – Monroe County chapter of National Organization for Women (MCNOW) having Allied Groups Picnic and Get Out the Vote Event on Sunday, July 28 at Southeast YMCA from 11am-2pm to discuss Get Out the Vote efforts with community organizations; Commissioner Hardesty will be there as a board member of MCNOW, Commissioner Douglas will be there as well on behalf of HAAP but maybe MCWC if other HAAP members are present
- B. Commissioner Belton was at July 11 joint meeting of Board of Commissioners and County Council – definitely need something to happen regarding the jail
- C. Commissioner Sobiech – Habitat for Humanity's Women's Build invitation still open to join team; Friday, September 20 is build day; Commissioner Belton reminds that \$300 in fundraising is required for each team member but can be reached through help like bake sales

#### V. Old/Ongoing business

##### A. Profile Subcommittee (Commissioners Douglas, Otto, and Belton)

- Purpose: Elevating profile of Monroe County Women's Commission, who we are, and what we support
- Meets second Thursday of every month at 5:30pm
- Last scheduled meeting did not occur; Commissioner Douglas is not clear on purpose of this subcommittee; seems overwhelming to attend all sorts of community meetings; maybe instead be responsible for quarterly updates to Board of Commissioners and County Council?
- Still fits with purpose of subcommittee so this is how Profile Subcommittee will proceed

##### B. Outreach Subcommittee (Commissioners Iruoje, Belton, and Hardesty)

- Purpose: Create and maintain programs that support our mission; current focus is web design camp
- Women's Health Fair – Saturday, September 28, 8-11am; flyers posted downtown and will post flyers again closer to time; can put flyers at Crestmont Boys and Girls Club and at Girls Inc; MCPL Ellettsville and Boys and Girls Club in Ellettsville can also receive flyers (**Action Item**)
  - a) School of Public Health student support? Commissioner Sobiech can help organize but would need to know more details
    1. Student volunteers can help with snack bar and registration – 2 volunteers would help
    2. Satisfaction survey that students could conduct also a possibility
    3. Next subcommittee meeting, invite Commissioner Sobiech to work on student volunteer activity planning (**Action Item**)

- b) Commissioner Belton reports that Kevin Terrell from Banneker Community Center is including this event in newsletter; IU Health is also advertising in newsletter
- c) School of Public Health and Luddy School can offer snacks if needed
- d) Should consider if MCWC wants to host an event like this again or regularly
- MCWC Web Design Camp – Molly Turner-King checking with IU General Counsel and still waiting to hear; Commissioner Iruoje will follow up **(Action Item)**
  - a) MCWC will be patient and make it happen; community wants this camp

**C. Policy Subcommittee (Commissioners Sobiech, Hardesty, and Douglas)**

- Purpose: Evaluate county policy using gender equity lens; current focus is jail
- Meets fourth Thursday of month at 5:30pm
- Working on gender equity rubric – researching and aiming for September to have report/rubric prepared
- Jail
  - a) Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACS) seemingly on hold at this point
  - b) Commissioner Douglas attended joint session on July 11 (same meeting Commissioner Belton reported on earlier) where functional capacity discussed; need to make sure women and marginalized genders are housed in safe manner and their needs are met; bed numbers do not mean things are set up for safety and keeping populations separated
  - c) Commissioner Douglas let ACLU know about things not moving forward productively but not sure if this will result in any prodding

**D. Data Subcommittee (Commissioners Hingle and Sobiech)**

- Purpose: Become more grounded in who we serve through data; current focus is creating survey
- Meet as needed
- Had a meeting and decided to have framework before research starts
  - a) Reviewing other counties and data they gather, considering gaps
  - b) Possible timeline: by August have basic ground work done, by September basic statistics available
- Still need to set regular meeting time **(Action Item)**

**VI. Public Comment**

- A. No public comment

**Meeting adjourned at 6:09pm**