

MONROE COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

June 20, 2024

Commissioner	Attendance	Appointed by	Term date
Susan Hingle, Chair	Absent	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	Present	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 5:33 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 (All Approve)**
- II. **Approval of Minutes (All Approve)**
 - A. 2024-05-16
 - Motion passes
- III. **Chair and Vice-Chair Updates**
 - A. **Commissioner Hingle (Chair)**
 - no update
 - B. **Commissioner Douglas (Vice-Chair)**
 - Happy Pride Month; Happy Alzheimer's Awareness Month; today is World Refugee Day; Happy day after Juneteenth; Sending Commissioner Hingle healing vibes
 - Attended People's Market Community Conversation on May 26 - money, services, programming, and mission is not in question for Commissioner Douglas; All financials and a recording of this meeting are live on People's Market website (<https://www.peoplesmarketbtown.org>); Commissioner Douglas continues to support People's Market
 - Attended Indiana Youth Institute program on Mentorship on June 5 (<https://iyi.org/mentor-indiana/>) – discussed difference between sponsorship and mentorship, meeting students where they are

- Middle Way House status – spoke with shelter emergency team member this past Saturday and emergency shelter was open and almost full at that time, so that is improvement
- In process with Middle Way through Community Justice and Mediation to have conversation about transparency regarding services
- Women’s Market preparation – Patty Moon from Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW)
 - a) Patty: here on behalf of BCSW; Saturday, July 27 from 9am-1pm in City Hall; planning is completed, requesting volunteers, will share that sign-up with MCWC; people setting up day before and morning of so Friday evening and Saturday has time slots for volunteers
 - b) Status on co-branding Women’s Market (BCSW and MCWC)? Flyer sent to vendors went out before co-sponsorship; nothing official for event flyer has gone out but it should include MCWC logo

IV. General Commissioners Updates

- A. Commissioner Sobiech – Monroe County Health Department Board Meeting just approved position for maternal and child health coordinator; Monroe County Health Equity Council (MCHEC) – still hoping to have more community conversations, period has closed for hospital survey but county is still collecting data, “meeting in a box” materials available (<https://www.communityvoicesmonroecounty.org/resources>) – conducting meeting estimated to take 1.5 hours for up to 8 participants, MCHEC can provide snacks
 - Meetings have happened at Banneker Center, Fairview Elementary; end of July is deadline for conversations, Commissioner Sobiech can help host if needed
 - What are goals of these conversations? Qualitative data analysis, IU health systems will incorporate survey feedback into health improvement plan, helps set priorities - this deadline is done; county also does health improvement plan and is still collecting information
- B. Commissioners Belton and Sobiech are co-team leaders for Women’s Build with Habitat for Humanity and Friday September 20 is build date, each team member has to fundraise \$300 minimum, no deadline to join but fundraising deadline is beginning of September
- C. Commissioner Iruoje petitioned to run for Monroe County School Board in November!

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
- No meeting this month
- Councilperson Jennifer Crossley announced MCWC is partnering for Women’s Market with BCSW and this is example of county/city collaboration
- Preparing public comment to update council and commissioners about current MCWC work
 - a) Send updates from subcommittees to Commissioner Douglas and she will put together public comment using template (**Action Item**)
 - b) Could also request to be added to agendas for Board of Commissioners meeting and County Council meeting to give report

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

- Purpose: Create and maintain programs that support our mission; current focus is web design camp
- Secured location and date for Women’s Health Fair – Banneker Community Center on Saturday, September 28 from 8-11am
 - a) Partnership with IU Health; MCWC is host and IU Health will provide variety of

health services including following: blood pressure screening, cholesterol and blood sugar (A1C) checks, flu and Covid vaccines

- b) Banneker Community Center will post and IU Health will post in monthly newsletters; MCWC members can participate, remember to fast beforehand to do cholesterol check! Spread the word, there will be a flyer!
- c) Commissioner Hardesty motions to approve event; Commissioner Sobiech seconds **(All Approve)**
- d) Can MCWC members bring snacks for participants? Commissioners Iruoje and Sobiech might have sources for snacks
- e) Commissioner Sobiech also suggests incentives to participate like food bags or snack bags as takeaways
- f) Cholesterol checks and A1C level checks - open to anyone who would like to have these checks but how do we help get word out about fasting requirement? On flyer and IU Health will also advertise this information
 - 1. A finger stick for both checks, then go to IU Health website to see results; participants will receive phone call follow-up if high blood pressure results; will get letter for high A1C level results
- g) Thyroid checks will not be available
- h) Future goal is to do mammograms next year – limited to 20 people due to equipment and time
- i) Other possible health fair activities for future: IU School of Public Health has Veggie Meter Station to see if you are eating enough vegetables; CO2 meter for smokers to check carbon dioxide levels
- j) Commissioner Sobiech motions to let Outreach Subcommittee design and approve and send out flyer; Commissioner Iruoje seconds **(All Approve)**

- Commissioner Iruoje – MCWC Web Design Camp update – IU General Counsel wants to meet with IU Luddy School and that will happen soon; camp will happen!

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 existing gender equity rubrics
- Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACS) survey of 5 pilot counties – received response from one county; reported not enough information to say if program is helping with recidivism, 2 years not enough time for data, program is continuing since state is funding program; qualitative and anecdotal data is useful too
 - a) Want to do follow up with this county's contact and with identified recovery organization being used in this county **(Action Item)**
 - b) Commissioner Penny Githens is not a commissioner in 2025 (Commissioner Githens proposed applying for this program) and IRACS has to choose the county so a lot remains unknown

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
- No report, need to schedule meetings instead of meeting as needed **(Action Item)**
- Plan is to do assessment of available data sources; have spreadsheet that is continuing to be populated; can share this out to MCWC and see if there are other resources to add **(Action Item)**

VI. **Public Comment**

- A. Patty Moon from Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women – Attending for Shayla George

B. County Councilperson Jennifer Crossley

- Really proud of MCWC work, exciting news about people running for office; able to attend MCWC meetings moving forward; Habitat build, Women's Health Fair are all exciting
- Regarding giving updates to County Council – not sure if department head updates is where this fits but it might fit there or somewhere else in the agenda, so it is worth it to ask
- Also Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority member (AKA) – part of mission is to uplift local community efforts; in service to all in county and want to see if AKA can help with snacks for health fair; want to be more active with organizations in community
- Appreciate city/county collaboration!

Meeting adjourned at 6:24pm