

MONROE COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

May 16, 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	Absent	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 5:30 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. Motion passes

II. Approval of Minutes (All Approve)

A. 2024-04-16

- Motion passes

III. Chair and Vice-Chair Updates

A. Commissioner Hingle (Chair)

- September 19, 2024 meeting rebooked in Showers Building North, Room 100A, 501 N. Morton Street
- Indiana Commission for Women – no meetings for a while and unclear what is happening
 - a) Commissioner Hingle to contact Director (Jordan Teske-Harrison) **(Action Item)**
 - b) Senator Shelli Yoder also a member
- Monroe County Women's Commission Dropbox documents moved to Microsoft Teams – all commissioners should be able to access using link sent from Greg Crohn on April 24
 - a) Contact Greg if any problems with access
- Change order of subcommittees in agenda to give Commissioner Douglas reporting breaks **(Action Item)**

B. Commissioner Douglas (Vice-Chair)

- Today is Global Accessibility Awareness Day (<https://accessibility.day>)
- May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

- May primaries are done and candidates set for Monroe County Board of Commissioners and Monroe County Council elections in November
- Commissioner Douglas terminated from Middle Way House on May 6 and concerned about services for survivors
 - a) No one accepted into emergency shelter for at least 4 weeks, possibly 5 weeks
 - b) Middle Way House is only certified rape crisis center in Southern Indiana
 - c) Lawrence County still has Sojourn House (<https://www.sojournhousewomen.org>) and Becky's Place (<https://www.archindy.org/cc/bloomington/beckysplace.html>), and Morgan County has Desert Rose (<https://desertrose.cc>) accepting survivors for emergency shelter but this represents a possibly alarming gap in services in Monroe County
 - d) Commissioner Hingle will contact Middle Way House Board on behalf of Monroe County Women's Commission to inquire about status of emergency shelter
(Action Item)
 - e) Lawrence County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (<https://www.lczephyr.org/post/lawrence-county-coalition-against-domestic-violence-works-to-create-solutions>) meets monthly and might be resource to contact as well
 - f) Monroe County has similar group (Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition through the City of Bloomington - <https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/domestic-violence>)
 1. Commissioner Douglas participates on this group and will bring up question about gap in services **(Action Item)**

IV. 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
- Created template for commissioners making public comment - state who we are, situation, concern, action request
 - a) Place template document onto Teams **(Action Item)**
- Commissioner Douglas attended Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women meeting on May 2
 - a) We are invited to co-sponsor Women's Market this year – Saturday, July 27, 10am-2pm in City Hall Atrium, need to be present to help run the market
 - b) Commissioner Otto motions to co-sponsor Women's Market 2024 (All Approve)**
 1. Motion passes
- Commissioner Douglas attended Monroe County Council meeting on May 14
 - a) Justice Fiscal Advisory Council quarterly update happening at May 28 council meeting
- Hoosier Asian American Power (HAAP) event for AAPI Heritage Month happening on Wednesday, May 29 in Indianapolis at Tube Factory Artspace, 1125 S. Cruft Street, from 5-7pm
 - a) Panelists Ellen Wu, Ami Gandhi, and Commissioner Douglas will discuss voting rights and civic engagement
 - b) Facebook event has more details:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1699082704209531>
- Proposal to Outreach Subcommittee – Health Fair co-sponsored by Monroe County Women's Commission and IU Health/Monroe County Public Health

- a) Outreach Subcommittee would need to decide on date, audience, and venue
- b) Commissioner Belton can get volunteers through IU Health/Monroe County Public Health Clinic which provides everything to conduct the fair activities
 - 1. Can conduct checks for cholesterol, blood pressure, and A1C blood glucose levels
- c) Date should be in fall so time for marketing; target market/audience will decide venue; Banneker Center as example, Shayla George from Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women has connections for using that space; should be community space open to all
- d) Resource fair in addition to health fair could be an option but main goal is health fair activities
- e) Commissioner Douglas can assist Outreach Subcommittee

B. 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
- Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACS) Program – preparing short list of questions to ask of 5 pilot counties about how program is going for them and impact on recidivism, particularly for women and other marginalized genders
 - a) Board of Commissioners Commissioner Githens brought up this program to county; at public meeting there were questions and concerns from community; program chooses counties to participate and Monroe County has not yet heard if chosen
 - b) IRACS requires certified recovery organization in community; New Leaf New Life is closest thing to this type of recovery organization but would have to change board makeup, programming, and mission to qualify
 - c) State funding supports IRACS program so money coming into county if chosen
 - d) IRACS curriculum concern – criminality seen as character flaw to correct in individual; Commissioner Sobiech bringing summary of curriculum to Outreach Subcommittee for review

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

- Purpose: Create and maintain programs that support our mission; current focus is web design camp
- Think that updated contract with new event name (Monroe County Women’s Commission Web Design Camp) was sent to IU General Counsel and Commissioner Iruoje was going to meet with someone in Luddy School regarding that updated contract but not sure
- Probably no update until Commissioner Iruoje returns (June)
- Commissioners Belton and Hardesty will meet on Monday, May 20 regarding Profile Subcommittee’s proposal for Health Fair

D. Data Subcommittee (Commissioners Hingle and Sobiech)

- Purpose: Become more grounded in who we serve through data; current focus is creating survey
- Building data set on who has data about our county (census, health department, those types of sources) – landscape analysis; envisioning catalog of where to go for data and summarize data from those sources
- Looking for data available that is divided by gender – trying to figure out what we know about the county and look for information gaps
- Previous surveys from Monroe County Women’s Commission and project from O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs with City of Bloomington/Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce would be helpful to include – might be located in Microsoft Teams for Monroe County Women’s Commission

- State level reports on statistics like maternal mortality and infant mortality likely available by county
- Heading Home of Southern Indiana has reports that could be helpful to include
- State of Aging in Central Indiana – report from Central Indiana Senior Fund that was just updated giving statistics showing older women face more financial burdens and social isolation than older men (<https://centralindiana.stateofaging.org/report-data/>)

V. Public Comment

- A) Shayla George from Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women - Shayla will serve as BCSW liaison to Monroe County Women's Commissioner; BCSW wants to support web design camp event, could reach out to other schools like Ivy Tech; will report to BCSW that Monroe County Women's Commission voted to co-sponsor Women's Market 2024 on July 27

Meeting adjourned at 6:23pm