

# MONROE COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

August 15, 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 5:46 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. 2024-07-18

- Motion passes

### III. Chair and Vice-Chair Updates

#### A. Commissioner Hingle (Chair)

- No news from Indiana Women's Commission recently
- Torchbearer Awards (<https://www.in.gov/icw/initiatives/torchbearer-awards2/>) event happening Wednesday, September 25 – Commissioners Otto and Douglas attending

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

- Thank you to Nissy Stetson-Grace for reaching out via email about speaking directly into microphones during meeting; Nissy enjoys these meetings and the way the Women's Commission advocates for marginalized groups!
- Women's Commission appreciates that people are watching these meetings and thanks Community Access TV Services for providing that service!
- This month is Black Business Month, Back To School Month, and National Wellness Month
- Today is National Relaxation Day, tomorrow is National Authenticity Day

- Women's Market with Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW) happened and was successful
  - a) Thank you to Commissioners Hardesty and Sobiech for volunteering
  - b) Marissa Parr-Scott from BCSW wants to collaborate with Women's Commission on a Women's History event in March 2025 that is low-barrier, free, and at a better time of day than the Women's History Luncheon
- **Commissioner Douglas motions to collaborate with BCSW on Women's History Month event (All Approve)**
  - a) Motion passes
- Attended Monroe County NOW Ally Picnic along with Commissioner Hardesty
  - a) Rainy day and less than 10 people attended but good conversation and still had several organizations represented
  - b) Discussed Get Out the Vote work happening among different groups

#### IV. General Commissioners Updates

- A. Commissioner Hardesty – Attended Heading Home of Southern Indiana's Community Housing Workshop on Community Housing Action Plan (<https://headinghomeindiana.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Housing-Action-Plan-Bloomington-Monroe-Co-August-2024.pdf>)
  - Twice as many attendees as expected (over 100 people in the room!)
  - Several tables reviewing 7 of the 8 recommendations
  - Discussing options for achieving recommendations, energizing discussion and event
  - Survey sent afterwards for event feedback but also asking for interest in serving on working groups
  - Commissioner Hardesty will respond to the survey and express interest as well (**Action Item**)
- B. Commissioner Otto - Also attended workshop and answered survey expressing interest in working groups
- C. Commissioner Douglas – Would be good to have Women's Commission participating in this effort since women are a group at high risk of homelessness and also experience higher levels of violence than other groups when unhoused
  - Will wait to vote on Women's Commission participating until there are more details available about working groups
  - Policy Subcommittee could take on this work if it aligns with Women's Commission mission
- D. Commissioner Otto – Wrote postcards at a recent Get Out the Vote event to encourage people to vote; more events like this happening soon

#### 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
  - Commissioner Otto planning to give report on Women's Commission activities at County Council and Board of Commissioners meetings, hopefully this month but sometime soon
  - Email notice from Molly Turner-King that Women's Commission cannot collaboratively edit documents online, that needs to be activity done in public meeting since quorum working on document
  - Otherwise, process will need to be Commissioner Otto drafts report, brings to Profile Subcommittee, then report is added to next Women's Commission agenda for voting, then presented at County Council and Board of Commissioner meetings
    - a) There are no decisions being made and nothing new being written in these

reports; they are based on Women's Commission meeting minutes that are already approved and published

- b) Since this is summary, Profile Subcommittee can put this together without entire Women's Commission (or quorum) needing to edit or review
  - County Councilperson Crossley reported to Profile Subcommittee that since Board of Commissioners is governing body for Women's Commission, approval is needed from Board of Commissioners to be added to County Council agenda
    - a) No approval needed to give public comment (not on agenda)
  - **Commissioner Hingle motions that Profile Subcommittee can present synopsis of Women's Commission activities based on approved meeting minutes as public comment at Board of Commissioners and County Council meetings (All Approve)**
    - a) Motion passes
- B. Outreach Subcommittee (Commissioners Iruoje, Belton, and Hardesty)**
- Purpose: Create and maintain programs that support our mission; current focus is web design camp
  - Web Design Camp moving forward and more updates soon
  - Health Fair happening on September 28 at Banneker Community Center from 8-11am
    - a) Share on social media
    - b) Commissioner Hingle will send to County for social media posting and get confirmation and date they commit to posting (**Action Item**)
    - c) Flyer was on display at Women's Market
- 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
  - "Jail" as a single focus for subcommittee can be removed from subcommittee purpose at this point since there are multiple issues including the jail that the subcommittee is working on (**Action Item**)
  - Jail update
    - a) From BSquare Bulletin reporting – Board of Commissions looking at another site for the new jail, Cowden Property at Vernal Pike and Woodyard Road
    - b) August 16 at 10am there is a meeting of the County Council to decide on a budget and bed count for the new jail
    - c) Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACS) update – New Leaf New Life is the identified partner organization for IRACS but New Leaf New Life has not met all qualifications for program and there has been a change in leadership; Commissioner Githens citing this as reason for delay in decision about program
  - Gender Equity Rubric – still in progress but aiming for rubric to use to examine gender equity of county policies and decisions
    - a) Each subcommittee member going through collected research and putting together summary with purpose, goals, and tools, types of rubrics useful for county code and financial decisions (limiting scope to these two areas for now)
    - b) Picking out parts of example rubrics to try putting county code or policy through to see if rubric works – does the information make sense, what does rubric tell us about county code or policy, is rubric an educational tool; can financial decisions pass through the rubric?
  - Does Women's Commission want to be part of Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts? Monroe County NOW (MCNOW) can be partner and Hoosier Asian American Power (HAAP) can be partner; both groups are non-partisan and have funding so we would support as volunteers at tabling events (sweat equity)
    - a) League of Women Voters (LWV) is also organizing events for GOTV (and also non-partisan)

- b) MCNOW events tend to be in city and it would be helpful to do things at county level
- c) HAAP is getting language translations of voter registration information
- d) Need to see if these organizations already have GOTV events happening that Women's Commission members can join
- e) Do callouts over email if there are events coming up and see if anyone on Women's Commission can help
- f) National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 17 and LWV tends to have focused efforts on that day
- g) Commissioner Douglas can figure out HAAP's plans and can reach out to LWV **(Action Item)**
- h) Prioritize county events
- i) Monroe County Fall Festival is September 12-14 in Ellettsville and Commissioner Hingle will look into GOTV tabling there **(Action Item)**
  - 1. Commissioner Douglas can ask HAAP to help if money is needed to table
- j) Saturday, August 24 is LWV voter registration training at Monroe County Public Library; training also happening in Ellettsville on Thursday, August 29

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

- Purpose: Become more grounded in who we serve through data; current focus is creating survey
- No meeting occurred
- Set meetings as second Sundays of the month, 3:30-5:30pm

**VI. Public Comment**

**A. Shayla George, Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW)**

- Received general feedback about Women's Market – space was not full (some vendor tables empty) – other vendors were on waitlist but not all vendors showed up who were signed up; vendors did not like being located upstairs in City Hall; event not marketed enough, people walking inside City Hall and did not know that event was happening; some vendors made sales so that was good
- Will follow up on BCSW partnering with Women's Commission on Women's History Month event
  - a) Commissioner Sobiech – Women's History Month event could focus on public health

**Meeting adjourned at 6:41pm**