

MONROE COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

October 17, 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	Absent	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 5:33 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. Motion passes
- II. **Approval of Minutes (All Approve)**
 - A. 2024-09-19
 - Motion passes
- III. **Chair and Vice-Chair Updates**
 - A. **Commissioner Hingle (Chair)**
 - Requested name tag for Commissioner Belton; name tags will be created without names moving forward
 - Still need to have discussion with Molly Turner-King (**Action Item**)
 - Attended Monroe County Health Equity Council event on Monday, October 14 (recording available via <https://catstv.net/m.php?q=13893>)
 - a) Shelley Sallee from Healthnet should be invited to talk to Women's Commission regarding perceptions of gender equity and healthcare among Healthnet clients (**Action Item**)
 - b) Wanted to see more elected officials present (Commissioner Thomas was there as a member of the Health Equity Council)
 - c) Panel discussion between Healthnet, IU Health, and Monroe County Health Department followed by table discussions among participants

- Still need to follow up with New Leaf New Life (**Action Item**)

B. Commissioner Douglas (Vice-Chair)

- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month; ADHD Awareness Month; LGBT History Month; Breast Cancer Awareness Month; Filipino American History Month
- Attended Monroe County NAACP event 70 Years Post-Brown: Looking to the Past, Transforming the Future – part of committee hosting event
 - a) Great panel discussion including Frank Motley, J.D. and Vivian Bridgwaters-Gray discussing roll out of Brown v Board of Education and that not a lot has changed and things that were meant to be addressed by that ruling are still happening now; IU NAACP President DaJuan Pearson and Bloomington High School South senior Jael Davis shared their recent experiences in schools in Indiana; Jael Davis advocated for a racial discrimination justice policy to be added to the MCCSC Student Handbook and that passed last year
- Get out and Vote!

IV. General Commissioners Updates

- A. Commissioner Hardesty shared a Get Out the Vote program from the Monroe County chapter of the National Organization for Women in partnership with Uber to offer free roundtrip rides to go vote for any Monroe County resident for early voting and on Election Day. Visit <http://iu.turbovote.org/> for more information.

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
- Commissioners Otto and Douglas attended Indiana Commission for Women’s Torchbearer Awards event; interesting to see award winners and their work (starting non-profits, supporting women, trauma care for women coming out of domestic violence situations) but also in the middle of a state with a supermajority that is not supporting women
 - a) Monroe County Women’s Commission did not seem to be known or understood among this group
- Commissioner Douglas attended the 2024 Vi Taliaferro Dinner and spoke about the MCWC gender equity rubric under development
- No public comment presented yet at Board of Commissioner’s meeting on MCWC work
- Hoosier Asian American Power (HAAP) is phone banking to get out the vote
- HAAP is also publishing candidate questionnaire responses from surveys sent to counties with high Asian American populations, governor candidates, and attorney general candidates
 - a) Responses from only 5 candidates – disappointing because it shows how Asian Americans are not seen

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

- Purpose: Create and maintain programs that support our mission; current focus is web design camp
- Meeting on Mondays but do not have next meeting scheduled yet
- Web Design Camp – still waiting to get feedback from IU General Counsel (last meeting in August)
- Health Fair event occurred at Banneker Community Center and community members were helped with health care checks – thanks to Commissioner Belton for making that 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
- Meetings on hold until after Election Day but will pick up on gender equity rubric work then

D. Data Subcommittee (Commissioners Hingle and Sobiech)

- Purpose: Become more grounded in who we serve through data; current focus is creating survey
- Meets second Sunday of month at 3:30pm
- No meetings occurred

VI. New Business

A. Women's Commission membership for 2025

- Commissioners Douglas, Sobiech, and Otto up for re-appointment
 - a) Commissioner Douglas will check with County Council about re-appointment process **(Action Item)**
 - b) Commissioner Hingle will check with Board of Commissioners about re-appointment process **(Action Item)**
- Commissioner Hingle might resign from Women's Commission in January due to other commitments and will definitely not be running again for Chair
- Commissioner Douglas will check if MCWC meeting schedule starting in January is continuing as it is now **(Action Item)**
- Need to vote on having work session for January meeting to plan out work for 2025
 - a) Review subcommittee structure, membership, and goals
- Have elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary at December's MCWC meeting if re-appointment plans are known

VII. Public Comment

- A. No comment

Meeting adjourned at 6:22pm