

Permanent Commission on the Status of Hartford Women (PCSHW)

**Special Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, August 13, 2019, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Hartford Public Library | Classroom 141

500 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

**1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.**

- a. Commissioners present in person or by phone/quorum.
  - i. Sharon Pope, Tammy Leach, Mary-Jane Foster, Erica Crowley, Sara Banda, Janee Folston, Haben Abraham
  - ii. Commissioner Update - Commissioner Pope introduced a community volunteer researcher with a background in human rights and incarceration. Jillian Davey is a recent graduate of Trinity College.
- b. Staff present
  - i. Steve Francis, Interim Director of Human Resources, David Grant, Executive Assistant and LGBTQ+ Liaison and Faith Palmer, City Staffer

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.**

- a. July 9, 2019 draft minutes attached
  - i. Corrections/Additions – none
  - ii. Approved unanimously

**3. Officer Reports.**

- a. Chairwoman Pope
  - i. Hartford statistics continue to be an important component needed to help the commission shape its mission. Aurora Foundation has not responded to a request for assistance.
  - ii. Commissioner Pope is collaborating with a community volunteer, Jillian Davey, who was brought onboard because of her research background in human rights and incarceration. She will also help the Commission obtain a better overall picture of the status Hartford women.
  - iii. Commissioner Pope expressed an interest in hosting the Commission meetings in a different community library to help understand issues facing local women.
- b. Vice-Chairwoman Leach - No new business
- c. Managing Secretary Crowley - No new business

**4. Committee Reports**

- a. Commissioner Leach reports on plans for Empowerment Workshop for justice involved women in collaboration with Sue Gunderman, the Interim Re-entry Director for the City of Hartford.
  - i. The workshop planning meeting was productive and the attendees helped to frame the workshop.
  - ii. Gunderman passed along that the MOU with the City is in process and once finalized, the account can start receiving money to support the workshop.
  - iii. Discussed having a mentoring component as part of the empowerment piece along with mentor training prior to the workshop. Commissioner Leach is leading this effort.

*Jill Pope*  
2019 SEP 12 AM 10:05  
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HARTFORD

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- iv. Commissioner Pope says that Town & Country Club may host the orientation. About 100 years ago, local women came together to purchase the Town & Country Club house for \$100,000 because they were not allowed in male organizations.
- v. The next workshop planning meeting is scheduled for Aug. 19.
- vi. The workshop will take place on Dec. 4 at the Chrysalis Center in Hartford.
- b. Commissioner Crowley introduced the discussion on the status of the City's sexual harassment policy. Steve Francis, Interim Director of Human Resources, was introduced, and clarified milestones for next steps.
  - i. Week of Aug. 19 – A draft of policy will be available for review along with other policies for benchmarking.
  - ii. Week of Sept. 2 – Feedback is requested from the Commission.
  - iii. The new policy will be in place on Oct. 1, the same day as the state's new law - Time's Up.
  - iv. The EEO RFP has six people on the committee to review the proposals received.
  - v. Commissioner Pope invited Francis to come back in September to provide an update. This is the quarterly reporting we agreed to with Human Resources. She encouraged those in attendance to read Officer Baerga's memo to understand the background and as a case study for what did not go well.
- c. Commissioner Foster provided Hartford statistics tracked by the Interval House whose mission it is to end domestic violence. Services are available at no cost to those in need in the greater Hartford area. Foster serves at the organization's President & CEO.
  - i. Hartford has the largest volume of cases in CT and its safe house occupation does not time out.
  - ii. The organization has about 40 on staff. Two new employees will liaison with the HPD.
  - iii. Additional advocates for the immigrant and refugees will be a priority.
- d. Requests for presentations to the Commission: The Village for Families and Children and the Community Renewal Team Director of Women's Services, Tenesha Grant

**5. Public Comment**

A victim's advocate from New Britain highlights that there's been an "influx" of women who cannot qualify for various free support because their financial records show they have financial means, but only because of their spouse. A second advocate in attendance requested clarity on the origin of the questions the HPD uses to assess risk in a domestic call. Commissioner Foster, who had previously highlighted the questionnaire, cited the State of Maryland as the source.

**6. Adjournment**

Commissioner Pope adjourns meeting at 6:43 p.m.