



**Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
Meeting Minutes**

June 9, 2021

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Online via Zoom: [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Facebook Livestream: [Link](#)

Please contact hccswg@gmail.com for the meeting password

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Gabrielle called the meeting to order at 6:11PM
 - A. In attendance- Gabrielle Jackson, Pattie Hallberg, Shanique Spalding, Michelle Goncalves, Dawn Distefano, Jennifer Metsch, Jacqueline Velez
 - B. Not present- Tara Marshall, Lizzy Ortiz
- II. Discussion with our featured guest, Jynai McDonald, Family Child Care Coordinator for SEIU Local 509. Discussion centered on the importance of Family Childcare Providers, a workforce of over 92% women, a large percentage of whom are women of color. The Common Start Coalition has a bill before the legislature for a more sustainable, long term model with direct funding to providers based on capacity not on attendance. This bill also provides for assistance for families at lower wage levels. Jynai hopes for our support.
- III. Public Speak Out- no Public in attendance
- IV. Approval of minutes from May 13, 2021- Dawn made a motion and Michelle seconded. All in favor. Jennifer and Jacqueline abstained.
- V. Chair Report
 - A. Nothing to report
- VI. Vice-Chair Report
 - A. Nothing to report
- VII. Old Business
 - A. None
- VIII. New Business
 - a. HCCSWG Leadership Elections – we need to fill a slate including Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Gabrielle nominated Tara for Secretary and confirmed via text that Tara would accept the nomination as Tara was not present at the meeting. Pattie nominated Gabrielle for Chair. Jennifer nominated Jacqueline for Vice-Chair. Jenn made a motion to accept all of these nominations as the slate for the next year. Shanique seconded. Dawn called the roll for a vote:
 - Tara – absent
 - Gabrielle – yes
 - Pattie – yes

Shanique – yes
Michelle – yes
Dawn – yes
Jennifer – yes
Jacqueline – yes

Motion passed.

- b. July 8th Meeting - Featured Speaker will be Isabel Garcia.
- c. No Meeting in August- Summer Break
- d. 2021-2022 Meeting Calendar – Gabrielle has posted the schedule for next year
- e. In-person/Hybrid event planning – should we meet in person or continue virtually? We will plan to meet in person starting in September assuming that the pandemic guidelines continue as they are. Next meeting we will need to decide on locations for meetings. Discussion included ideas for upcoming meetings. Possibly forego speaker for a meeting in order to brainstorm about ways to become more proactive and into more advocacy work. Possibly take a bill that was identified in the May meeting as important to our work and learn more and become more active in advocating for each bill. Jenn noted that this legislative session ends on July 31. Shanique posted that the legislation chosen in May included the Healthy Youth Act, Affordable and Accessible High Quality Education and the I AM bill.

IX. Mass Commission Updates

- a. Planning for a September Regional Convening
- b. Collaboration with our Liaison for more events with elected leaders.

Adjournment- Dawn made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 Jennifer seconded. All approved.