

MONROE COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

November 21, 2024

Commissioner	Attendance	Appointed by	Term date
Susan Hingle, Chair	Absent	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 5:35 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. Commissioner Hardesty motions to add New Business to agenda to discuss Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary elections and work session (All Approve)**
- II. Approval of Minutes (All Approve)**
 - A. 2024-10-17
 - Motion passes
- III. Chair and Vice-Chair Updates**
 - A. Commissioner Hingle (Chair)**
 - No updates
 - B. Commissioner Douglas (Vice-Chair)**
 - Leading meeting in Commissioner Hingle's absence
 - November is Native American Heritage Month; National Family Caregivers Month (caregiving tends to fall to women); National Adoption Month (adoptees would like to change this to National Adoptees Month because it should be about recognizing the people, not the action)
 - Now, more than ever in our lifetime, the importance of this commission is apparent. Women's participation in government is an act of resistance to patriarchy and the forces that wish to oppress us. Looking forward to 2025 and talking about women's issues and advancing the status of women and marginalized genders

IV. General Commissioners Updates

- A. No updates

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 Douglas and Hardesty attended Divine 9 candidate forum on November 26
- Commissioner Douglas attended:
 - a) Building a Thriving Compassionate Community's Monroe County Childhood Conditions (BTCC MC3) on October 30
 - b) Community Conversation luncheon with MCCSC superintendent
 - c) November 9 Girls Inc. Ruby Gala (Commissioner Douglas served as MC)
 - d) Indiana Task Force contraception vending machine meeting
- Public comment upcoming at county council, county commissioner, and city council meetings to report for the year and divided up among subcommittee members. Highlights will include:
 - a) Commissioner Belton joined Women's Commission
 - b) Collaborated with CAPS Commission on film series
 - c) Conversations on gender equity with new jail
 - d) Collaborated with Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women for Women's Market
 - e) Continuing efforts with IU for Web Design Camp
 - f) Hosted community health fair
 - g) Participated in Get Out the Vote efforts
 - h) Attended Heading Home of Southern Indiana gatherings
 - i) Attended NAACP freedom fund banquet
 - j) Chamber of Commerce/The Guarden event on organization/collaboration
 - k) Attended Indiana Commission for Women Torchbearer's Award Banquet
 - l) Restructured Women's Commission into subcommittees for efficacy and efficiency

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 – MOU is in Luddy (School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering at IU) to be signed, so made it through IU General Counsel
 - a) Hopefully next step is for Board of Commissioners at County to review and approve

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
- Met this month and goal is to test gender equity rubric on County Ordinance 2024-30 (update on paid parental and family leave policy)
 - a) Trying rubric individually and then debrief at January 2025 meeting

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 updates

VI. New Business

- A. Reappointment process for Women's Commission members appointed by County Council – Commissioner Douglas received email about continuing and will be reapplying
- B. Meeting schedule for 2025 – whoever is voted in as Chair for 2025 can check on that **(Action Item)**
- C. Commissioner Hingle will add Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary elections to agenda for December meeting **(Action Item)**
- D. Also need to confirm quorum for December meeting **(Action Item)**
- E. **Commissioner Douglas motions to make January's meeting a work session**
 - **All Approve**
 - Commissioner Hardesty will schedule room (probably at Monroe County Public Library) **(Action Item)**

VII. Public Comment

- A. No comment

Meeting adjourned at 6:01pm