

## Women's Commission Meeting Agenda

Hosted via Zoom

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

6:00 PM

Attendees: Kionne, Miriam, Robin, Ella, Sarasi, Sara, Stephany, Yasmin, Ana, Ella, Lynda, Ciarra, Gab, Monica, Carolyn, Rachel, Tevis,

Staff: Jill Muth, Khadeja

Guests: Tom Stack

1. Welcome and call to order
2. Approval of Minutes Approval of minutes from the January 31, 2024 meeting.
3. Staff Update (Jill)
  - a. March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day and we're planning a panel with Robyn, Kimberly, Kadijah and Kionne moderating.
  - b. March 23<sup>rd</sup> is our strategic planning retreat. More details to come soon on the logistics.
  - c. April 8<sup>th</sup> is a state legislative event that the Advise and Council subcommittee will attend.
  - d. Morehead Caine approved the WC to receive 4-5 interns for the spring-summer, working to improved access to women's preventative health care.
4. Commissioner email accounts check-in: several commissioners have made it into their email accounts, but many are still having trouble. Time and communication with IT seems to be an issue. Suggestion was made to have someone on-site during our retreat for set-ups. Khadeja asked if you could send her the names of anyone we worked with if we experienced any hurdles.
5. Presentation from Tom Stack from the Human Trafficking Collaborative
  - a. Two forms: Labor and Sex. Sex is more visible. Labor is more of a hidden crime. Little data to support the total numbers bc the victims don't self-report. Often, they don't know they are victims because of the nature of their trauma.
  - b. Sex trafficking is compelling or coercing someone into sex work. If you're underage, you are automatically considered a victim of trafficking and child sex abuse regardless of whether there is force or coercion.
  - c. Prostitution, stripping, and pornography are all includes in sex work. Money doesn't have to be involved. Rent and drugs can also be a currency used sex work.
  - d. Labor trafficking is forced labor and it can happen all over the city in almost any field of industry. Child care, nail technicians, landscaping, restaurant work,
  - e. 2017 Baltimore City Human Trafficking Collaborative. It takes cooperation and you need partners to do this work. Largest local human trafficking task force in Maryland. Always trying new ideas and approaches. Over 60 partnering organizations doing this work.
  - f. Subcommittees: public awareness, legislative, victims' services, law enforcement, medical
  - g. Blue Dot program
6. Advise and Counsel Voting Protocol – (Rachel, Yasmin)
  - a. Last week the A&C subcommittee sent out proposed guidelines for voting. Email the commissioners when we receive a request to comment, including a synopsis of the bill

and a link to it. Any questions or comments should be submitted in 24 hours. The A&C subcommittee will vote after sending out the comments to the entire committee. Motion to approve carried with no nays.

- b. One bill was already sent to the commission for comment involving anti-choice language in a proposed bill. The commission is supporting the recommendation of the health department per the A&C subcommittee.
7. Subcommittee Reports (2 minutes each)
    - a. Referrals – Ella is working on a few opportunities with the American Cancer Society and the Maryland Food Bank. Jill will connect with Ella later this week for next steps.
    - b. Forum for Amelioration -
    - c. Advice and Counsel
    - d. Workforce Monitoring -
    - e. Monitoring Boards and Commissions -
    - f. Research and Education -
    - g. Evaluate Policies and Programs -
  8. New Business
    - a. Next Meeting • Select in-person meeting date(s)
      - i. March 27<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30
      - ii. Meetings will be 90 meetings going forward since we've been having trouble getting everything done in 60 minutes.
  9. Open Discussion
    - a. Carolyn will send information to the A&C subcommittee about the upcoming ballot initiative to enshrine reproductive choice in Maryland's constitution and the action committee created to support the ballot initiative, Freedom In Reproductive Choice (FIRM).
  10. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.