

UMCSW Agenda September 11, 2019
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Arlington, MA Public Library, 4th Floor Conference Room
700 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA (781) 316-3200

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. Public Comment | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes from May 8, 2019 Meeting | Katie |
| 3. Grant from UCSW | Linda |
| 4. Follow-up Women's Empowerment Workshops | Kristina |
| a. June 1, 2019, 9 am – 2 pm, location TBD | |
| 5. Update MCSW Legislative Update | Connie |
| 6. Review & Discussion of Annual Report | Linda/Jenna/All |
| a. See Attachment B | |
| 7. Initiatives for Gender Auditing | Connie |
| a. See Attachment A | |
| 8. Project/Objective for Intern Program | Jenna |

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EVEN/CLERK
FOR DIS/THANS

Attachment A: References for Gender Auditing Initiatives

Here's a review from the Columbia Law School

[https://www.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/human-rights-institute/gender equity through human rights for publication.pdf](https://www.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/human-rights-institute/gender_equity_through_human_rights_for_publication.pdf)

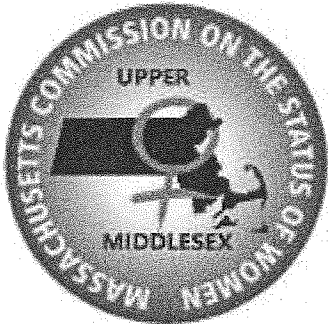
Here's an example of an intersectional gender audit that the Pittsburgh Gender Equity Commission is carrying out.

<https://pittsburghpa.gov/gec/about/index.html>

Article about its implementation.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2018/03/01/Pittsburgh-equity-panel-gender-commission-bias-city-hall/stories/201803010135>

Attachment B: UMCSW 2019 Annual Report



Upper Middlesex Commission on the Status of Women

Annual Report 2018 – 2019 (Submitted June 2019)

Mission

Uphold ideals and pursue actions consonant with the upward economic and social mobility of women and girls.

We do so by:

- Gathering empirical evidence to mobilize and amplify the voices of women and girls; and
- Generating transformational recommendations that create and sustain accountable systems that enable women and girls to thrive.

Commissioners

Jennifer Roecklein-Canfield (Littleton), Linda Rossetti (Winchester), Connie Chow (Newton), Anna Tse (Malden), Kaitie Chakoian (Waltham), Kristina Racek-Pachulis (Melrose), Tracy Reilly Ingersoll (Tewksbury), Donna Barry (Medford), and Mary Delorse Coleman (Cambridge)

Community Assessment

As a new commission that geographically represents 41 cities and towns, we felt it was a priority to collect and assess demographic information about our membership. We created a Data Subcommittee that collected and archived demographic information about each city/town, existing needs assessment documents, and any existing literature concerning women and girls in each.

Hearings/Public Forums

The UMCSW partnered with the MCSW and cohosted a Regional Public Hearing in Malden, MA on March 28, 2019 at the Senior Center Auditorium. The commissions heard from citizens, organizations, and government officials focused on women on issues that affect women, their families, and their communities.

The UMCSW cohosted with the Melrose Commission on the Status of Women, a Women's Economic Empowerment Series workshop on financial literacy on June 1, 2019 at Melrose High School. 15 attendees listened to a variety of talks and activities facilitated by the MA State Treasurer's Office on wage negotiation, money management, retirement, and investment strategies.

Advocacy

The UMCSW hosted a guest speaker, James Saucedo, during a regularly scheduled commission meeting on November 7, 2018 at the Arlington Public Library. We discussed the Rent Arrearage Assistance Program (RAAP) and a currently proposed bill (House Bill 1264). We were asked to give our endorsement and to help advocate for the bill. This was voted and approved by the commission.

Six members (Jennifer Canfield, Linda Rossetti, Connie Chow, Kaitie Chakoian, Donna Barry, and Anna Tse) of the commission participated in Women's Advocacy Day at the State H on May 21, 2019. We spoke with legislators about priority legislation for the MCSW for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session.

Priorities for 2019-2020

As a new commission, the UMCSW is continuing to evaluate our priorities for the upcoming year. The following is our current plan as discussed during our March 2019 regularly scheduled meeting:

1. Explore further the possibility of sponsoring a Gender Audit for the cities and towns within Upper Middlesex;
2. Pilot a Gender Audit with a city or town from our region. The pilot audit would include but not limited to: gathering information on gender representation in key roles within city or town government, boards and commissions that serve the city or town, and vendors who support the business of the city or town. In pursuing the pilot, the UMCSW hoped to further identify experts and resources that would be beneficial partners during a regional Gender Audit implementation and clarify the specifics of the audit (e.g. parameters for sampling and data gathering).

3. Create a standing agenda to include but not be limited to the following
 - a. Legislative Advocacy and Bill Sponsorship;
 - b. Hearing/Listening Event updates.
4. Create "Listening Tours" in specific towns to capture a larger audience than from a single Hearing