

Morris County Advisory Committee on Women

April 30, 2019

Morris View Meeting Room

Present: Pam Bennett-Santoro, Lila Bernstein, Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Carole Harper, Elaine Muller, Gayle Pearson, Shelby Rhodes

Absent: Joann Bjornson, Kathy DeFillippo, Patti Page

The meeting was called to order at 6:13pm by Chair Gayle Pearson.

## MEETING SUMMARY

<b>March 19, 2019 Minutes</b>	
	Pearson presented the March 19 minutes for approval. No changes were recommended, and the committee adopted minutes without discussion at 6:13pm.
<b>Human Services/Freeholder Report</b>	
	A new Director of Human Services has been hired. Pearson will outreach her to discuss renewed support for Women's Committee activities.
<b>Old Business</b>	
	<u>Work Plan</u> The committee reviewed and adopted the work plan as a fluid document to guide the work of the committee throughout the year and set agenda items.
	<u>Membership</u> Members completed paper copies of the membership profile questionnaire. Delcalzo-Berens will enter the information into a spreadsheet and share with the committee for a discussion at the next meeting about membership gaps. The committee had a discussion on philosophy of membership and recruitment that was unresolved at the end of the meeting. Questions that need to be addressed in a future discussion include what level of involvement should freeholders have in committee member appointment and should the membership include skillsets that are targeted to specific goals or a broader skillset? The committee discussed the absence of one member. Harper will outreach this member to discuss if she wants to continue her commitment to the committee.
	<u>Seeds of Change</u> The committee reviewed the mailing list for soliciting nominations for the award that was used last year. It is mostly nonprofit organizations. The committee determined to distribute the call for nominations to an expanded list including rotary members, chamber of commerce members and pharmaceutical companies. Delcalzo-Berens will send an email by Friday, May 3 which will be forwarded by members of the committee.
	<u>Housing Provider Stakeholder Follow Up</u> Pearson reported that this item is on hold until she speaks with the new Human Services Director.
<b>New Business</b>	
	<u>Chamber of Commerce</u> Bernstein reported that she and Bennett-Santoro met with Meghan Hunscher, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and Debbie Wolpov, Chair of Women in Business Committee, and Colette Moran, Chamber of Commerce staff on Thursday, April 4. They were offered a comprehensive overview of the Chamber's mission, membership and program. Bernstein and Bennett-Santoro explained the makeup and mission of the Women's Committee and provided an overview of an idea to solicit Chamber members for feedback regarding the needs of women engaged in the business community of Morris County. Chamber of Commerce personnel were open to the possibility of conducting a brief survey during the monthly morning meeting of the Women in Business Committee. However, that committee offers only a sampling of membership and the information would be stratified. Therefore, Bernstein and Bennett-Santoro recommend that the entire Chamber of Commerce membership be

included in the survey. Either effort would require developing a validated survey instrument. The Chamber of Commerce does have larger meetings and events and Bernstein and Bennett-Santoro believe the Chamber of Commerce would be amenable to this route. However, it will be a significant expenditure of time and resources and should be discussed by the committee. Bernstein also reported that the idea of having the Chamber of Commerce represented on the Women’s Committee was discussed and should be followed up on by committee leadership with Ms. Hunscher. Bennett-Santoro sent a kindly worded thank you letter to the contacts as a follow up. The committee discussed this opportunity for several minutes. Some members expressed concern that a survey of the Chamber of Commerce might be duplicative of other ventures. Some members felt that an informal survey would not lead to valid conclusions and that a needs assessment research project should be approached in a more scientific way. Pearson will ask for the advice of the Eagleton Institute and obtain information such as whether a needs assessment of a Chamber of Commerce has been completed in the past, if so, how long ago it was and any other insight.

Bylaws

Delcalzo-Berens recommended additional wording in the bylaws regarding leaves of absence. Harper made a motion to approve the amended bylaws. Bennett-Santoro seconded the motion. Motion carried at 7:21pm.

Female Empowerment Youth Conference

Bernstein reported that after reaching out several times to the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office, specifically Detective Patrick Laguerre who oversees Community Affairs, she was able to talk with him for a short time. Bernstein reported that she offered Detective Laguerre an overview of the proposed program and he replied that he could not facilitate and referred her to the Superintendent of Schools for assistance. She sent Detective Laguerre information, but he reported that he does not have the staff to do any development work or coordination for this project. Bernstein reported that she felt disrespected by the detective and that the interaction was very disappointing. The committee discussed the idea of a youth conference but generally did not feel it is a necessary project to address at this time

**Announcements and Updates**

None

**Meeting End**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
All members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer to attend freeholder meetings</li> <li>• Review materials prior to meetings</li> <li>• Forward Seeds of Change nomination email to contacts</li> </ul>
Allison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile member bios for distribution prior to next meeting</li> <li>• Send Liz updated bylaws</li> <li>• Send seeds of change email to nonprofit contacts and to committee members for forwarding</li> </ul>
Gayle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with new Human Services Director</li> <li>• Contact Eagleton Institute to discuss women in business needs assessment</li> <li>• Invite STAR program staff to a future meeting (maybe November)</li> </ul>
Carol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach Patti regarding ongoing commitment</li> </ul>
Shelby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete previous action items regarding the website and report at the May meeting</li> </ul>