

Morris County Advisory Committee on Women

July 16, 2019

Morris View Meeting Room

Present: Lila Bernstein, Joann Bjornson, Kathy DeFillippo, Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Elaine Muller, Gayle Pearson, Sharon Yoo

Absent: Pam Bennett-Santoro, Carole Harper, Shelby Rhodes

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair Gayle Pearson.

MEETING SUMMARY

June 18, 2019 Meeting Summary

Pearson presented the June 18 meeting summary for approval. No changes were recommended, and the committee adopted minutes without discussion at 5:31pm.

Human Services Report

Yoo shared her background and her personal mission, to help the vulnerable during times of crisis. She also stated that she shares the county's commitment to community work and collaborations.

Strategic Plan

DeFillippo presented the Morris County Strategic Plan which was completed about a year ago. She called attention to several assets that the county has, as well as some areas of opportunity, provided an overview of the planning process and some of the recent initiatives that have started the process of improving services based on the needs identified in the plan.

Pearson suggested that the Women's Committee write a mission statement and stated that she believes the mission should be focused on women in vulnerable populations. Yoo agreed that it appears from recent work the committee has done that it is already focused on vulnerable populations. Some populations that were identified included women veterans, women in jail/jail reentry and women with housing instability. Yoo stated that one idea she has is to have mentors for women in jail or who are discharged from jail. Bjornson suggested that the mission statement be considered as a separate agenda item and in greater depth before agreeing to something today. Delcalzo-Berens agree and suggested a short-term workgroup. Pearson asked if Bjornson, Delcalzo-Berens and Yoo could prepare a recommended mission statement for the next meeting.

The committee considered the question of how the committee can support the Board of Freeholders and the Strategic Plan. It was determined that additional information is necessary to identify what service areas have discrepancies and gaps for women specifically. Yoo will consult with department heads and report back at the next meeting. DeFillippo stated that there is much data around multiple issues, but the committee would need to be specific in what it asks for.

Housing Provider Stakeholder Follow-up

The committee decided not to pursue the finalization of this project.

Seeds of Change Award

Delcalzo-Berens reported that there were two inquiries but neither resulted in a completed nomination form. One person sent an email saying he would like to nominate his mother but when he read the criteria felt that she had not had done work specifically with women. The committee agreed that it would still like to consider the nomination and that the criteria does not indicate exclusive work with women.

The committee brainstormed how to advertise the award more. Yoo will share the information with the various board meeting memberships, Bernstein will reach out to the Chamber of Commerce again and DeFillippo stated she will send out to targeted candidates. Delcalzo-Berens will change the deadline to August 15 and resend the information.

Membership

The committee reviewed the draft of the recruitment letter. Yoo will review the letter in light of bylaws and procedures to ensure that it is within county guidelines. The committee spent time discussing how to recruit. The Freeholders have the duty to appoint members and will accept recommendations from the committee. The committee discussed inviting potential members to meetings to determine if it is a good fit and whether the candidates are ready to commit to the time that is required. Another recommendation was to have a nominating committee who would interview potential candidates. Delcalzo-Berens will make changes to the draft letter to make the procedure more vague as the committee needs to discuss this further and to add the meeting time. Pearson reported that she met someone who would be a good fit for the committee. She will provide the biographical form to the candidate for submission to the Freeholders.

Meeting End

The committee confirmed meeting dates for the remainder of the year. The August meeting will be cancelled. Remaining meeting dates will be September 17, October 22, November 19 and December 17.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

ACTION ITEMS

Who	What
All members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer to attend freeholder meetings • Review materials prior to meetings • Outreach contacts regarding Seeds of Change
Gayle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an application to Dr. Lisa Firkser for submission to the freeholders • Invite STAR program staff to a future meeting (maybe November)
Allison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask Liz to remove August meeting date from webpage • Resend Seeds of Change information • Edit draft letter and resend to Sharon and Kathy
Sharon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with department heads on gaps in women’s services or specific unmet needs of women • Send Seeds of Change information to board membership lists • Review draft recruitment letter considering county policies
Allison, Joanne and Sharon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a draft mission statement
Kathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach potential Seeds of Change candidates