



Worcester County Commission on the Status of Women

Annual Report 2024

Commissioners

Chantel Bethea (Chair), Worcester; Michelle Quinones (Vice Chair), Worcester; Marcia Chong Rosado, Milford; Kayanna James, Worcester; Carlee Mills (Clerk), Gardner; Amanda Molina Dumas, Millbury; Jacqueline Martino, Shrewsbury (through 12-31-23).

Mission

The purpose of the Commission shall be to advance women toward full equity in all areas of life and to promote rights and opportunities for all women. The mission of the Worcester County Commission on that Status of Women is to act as a permanent centralizing force and effective voice in the County of Worcester to ensure the equal status of women of every race, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, national origin, ability, age and sexual orientation in educational, economic, political, health, legal, and social spheres including the provision of information, referrals, and guidance. The commission stands for fundamental freedoms, basic human rights, and the full enjoyment of life for all women throughout their lives.

Advocacy

We continue to explore opportunities to contribute to the following areas of concern which have been identified as critical by the women in Worcester County:

- An Act relative to healthy youth
- An Act to Increase Access to Disposable Menstrual Product
- An act providing affordable and accessible high quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy in the commonwealth.



Programming

Worcester County Commissioners are working on their programming for this year. We wanted to hold our first public hearing and we did in Leominster, Mass on Early Education and Care.

Goals for the next fiscal year

Goal 1. Hold more public forums in the surrounding cities and towns in Worcester County.

Goal 2. Maintain regular contact with our legislators and officials on issues that concern women that have been identified as our priority areas of focus. Continue to collaborate with other organizations, and public officials, in order to support women and girls through public awareness.

Goal 3. Work on writing and proposing new state level legislative policies for women. Attend community events and share literature about the commission to promote awareness of our role and work to increase involvement in our activities.

Submitted by: Ms. Chantel, Chair of the Worcester County CSW