



Bristol County Commission on the Status of Women

Annual Report 2022

Commissioners

Stephanie Taylor, Chair (Taunton); Holly McNamara (Somerset); Iva Brito, (New Bedford); Werlane Badio, Treasurer (Fall River); Tanya Lobo (Taunton); Esther Rogers (Taunton)

Mission

The Bristol County Commission on the Status of Women (Bristol CCSW) has 9 members and exists to provide a positive and effective voice for women and girls at the regional level. The Bristol CCSW reports annually to the MCSW and is charged with conducting ongoing study of matters concerning women and girls in their region and recommending solutions. Our mission is to provide a permanent, effective voice for women across Massachusetts. The Commission stands for fundamental freedoms, basic human rights, and the full enjoyment of life for all women throughout their lives. Commissioners are drawn from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Advocacy

We have actively participated in both the MCSW's initiatives; Women in the Workforce Public Hearing and last months GELI summit (planning and cohosting) We have been working with a skeleton crew and have been aligning with the SEMA Women's Alliance with partnering and collaborating with other area agencies that focus on women's issues including the upcoming Community Conversations with Leadership South Coast in June. We also partnered with the National Parks Association and hosted an outreach info table in the late fall of 2021 at their annual Walk for Health event.

Programming

We have been working with a skeleton crew and have not had a quorum to set an agenda or any goals this past year. Yet we have consistently partnered with the MCSW and actively recruited new commissioners. We are co-sponsoring the upcoming Community Conversations with Leadership South Coast in June. We also partnered with the National Parks Association and hosted an outreach info in partnership with Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society with a table in the late fall of 2021 at the annual Walk



for Health event. We just appointed 3 new commissioners who are women of color making Bristol CCSW the only commission in the state with a majority of women of

color/rich diverse commission reflecting our community. The 3 new commissioners are ready and eager to work on our coming year agenda, goals, mission and to revamp and restructure our commission to better serve our community. We hosted a “Swearing in Ceremony” to bring awareness and attention to the commission showing our community that we are of them and our legislators support and encourage our commission. We had 3 of our state reps present, Rep Pat Haddad, Rep Carol Fiola and Rep Carol Doherty and our special guest who presided over the ceremony, US Attorney Rachel Rollins. We still have 3 more seats to fill but are positive the swearing in ceremony has re-ignited interest in the commission.

Goals for the next fiscal year

- *Fill all open commission seats (3)*
- *Set agenda and goals for coming fiscal year*
- *Outreach and branding*
- *Advocate and support commissioners to get paid.*

Our time is valuable as is the work we do. I enjoy being on the commission, but as a single middle-aged woman, I need to get reimbursed for this work, as do the rest of my sister commissioners. This will send a message to us and our communities that our hearings of *Women in the Workforce* is supported by the state and is valued.

Respectfully,

Submitted by Stephanie Taylor, Chairwoman
Bristol CCSW
5/26/22