

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

November 4, 2015

Commission Meeting

Upcoming Events

November 17 Women in Cambridge: Make Sure Your Brand Represents!

6-8pm CCTV Studio, 438 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA

Come network with other women in Cambridge who own their own businesses and hear a presentation by Tamar Haber-Schaim offering information and tips about brand identity and design. Also come learn about the exciting programs and resources CCTV offers the Cambridge community

December 3 Women and Words! Herstory: Women in Beer from Ancient Greece to Cambridge

7pm-8:30pm 344 Broadway

When did beer become a “guy thing”? How have women historically been involved in beer culture? How are women in the beer industry viewed today? Come hear a lively discussion led by home brewer and certified Beer Judge Kristen Sykes, founder of Boston Area Beer Enthusiasts Society (BABES), a beer club empowering women in the beer industry and introducing women to all things related to beer.

December 17 Outreach and Engagement to GLBTQ Communities (Community Engagement Team Event)

9am-12pm Cambridge College, 1000 Mass Ave

Minutes

DV Initiative Launch and Needs Assessment Report

On October 28, we had a successful launch of the *Cambridge Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative*. About 120 people attended the event, including many familiar faces who have been working on this issue for years, but also a number of newer faces who either became more involved during the Needs Assessment process or who were from the community and interested in learning more about DV prevention and what Cambridge is doing.

During the launch, Liz Speakman, the Initiative’s Coordinator, spoke about a number of the Insight Statements that were developed in the report. Evelyn Rivera from the Steering Committee, Reverend Lorraine Thornhill of the First Holiness Church in Cambridge, Representative Marjorie Decker, Mayor David Maher, and City Manager Richard Rossi also spoke.

Liz is already working on a number of initiatives that were inspired by community-voiced needs during the Needs Assessment process. Along with Transition House, with support from the Women’s Commission, Liz led an intensive Domestic Violence 8-session training held over a number of weeks. Approximately 40 people attended and there was an extensive waitlist.

The Initiative will also be training every single fire fighter on Domestic Violence and related issues.

City policy update: Paid Parental Leave

The Women's Commission served as an informational resource to the City Manager's Office as they created and implemented a new gender-neutral Paid Parental Leave Policy for non-Union City of Cambridge employees. The CCSW hopes to remain a resource for the city as they continue this process.

The city also effected a change to the Sick Leave Policy to allow for a greater amount of accumulated sick time to be used by new fathers and/or by any employee who needs to care for family members who are ill.

Commissioner Updates and New Business

Former Commissioner Johanne Meleance returned for our monthly meeting and shared with us stories from her exciting and challenging new position as Academic Partnership Coordinator for the Medical Education Department for Partners in Health in Haiti.