

Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women



Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report

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Commissioners 08-09

Greer Swiston, Chair, Newton
Pamela Malumphy, Vice Chair, Pittsfield
Elizabeth Houlihan, Treasurer, Falmouth
Donna Finneran, Secretary, Mattapan

Ruth Bramson, Dover
Linda Cavaoli, Worcester
Chris Chanyasulkit, Brookline
Helen Corbett, Middleton
Marissa DeFranco, Middleton
Deborah DiMasi, Boston
Stacy Dixon, Randolph
Stephanie Everett, Mattapan
Marianne C. Fleckner, Westford
Catherine Greene, Brighton
Elizabeth Hart, Malden
Lucy Hartry, Florence
Angela Menino, Hyde Park
Joanne Fitzgerald McCrea, Salem
Ruth Nemzoff, West Newton

Staff

Kira Dunn, Executive Director
Jill Ashton, Outreach Coordinator
Kimberly Sebastiao, Program Coordinator
Darlene Kelter, Administrative Assistant

Interns

Fall 08:

Eglatina Malaj, Salem State College
Erta Kokalari, Bunker Hill Community College

Summer 09:

Olivia Mandica-Hart, Smith College
Hillary Klemmt, Boston University
Sarah Sheffer, Northeastern University
Alicia Spector, Syracuse University
Alexandra Crowley Gottlieb, Bowdoin College
Crissa Morton, Providence College
Caitlin Cragg, Boston University

Spring 09:

Priscilla Nyahwa, UMass-Lowell
Rebekah Fiehn, UMass-Boston
Sarah Lamm, Northeastern University
Jessica Pereira, Fitchburg State College

Summer 08:

Mary Powell, UMass- Dartmouth
Meghan Condry, Providence College

INTRODUCTION

The MCSW is an independent state agency legislatively created in 1998 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. The Commission strives to advance women of the Commonwealth to full equality in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities.

The Commission is comprised of 19 members who are appointed by the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Caucus of Women Legislators. Commissioners serve in a voluntary capacity and the work of the Commission is facilitated by a staff of four, assisted by year-round interns.

Under MA Chapter 3, Section 66 of the Massachusetts General Laws the MCSW is empowered to:

- Study, review and report on the status of women in the Commonwealth;
- Advise executive and legislative bodies on the effect of proposed legislation on women;
- Inform leaders of business, education, health care, state and local governments and the communications media of issues pertaining to women;
- Provide referrals and serve as a resource of information on issues pertaining to women;
- Identify and recommend qualified women for positions at all levels of government;
- Promote and facilitate collaboration among local women's commissions and among women's organizations in the state;
- Serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with issues affecting women.

This 2008-2009 Annual Report includes the Commission's activities and findings for the period of July 1, 2008 to June, 2009.

MCSW Committees

The Commission operates through working committees that address various areas and report back to the full Commission for consideration and action. Each Commissioner is required to participate in at least one committee and attend monthly full commission meetings. The committees meet once a month.

There are several working committees within the Commission:

1. Executive Committee, comprised of all officers and committee chairs and chaired by the Chair of the Commission.
2. Legislative & Public Policy Committee
3. Program & Planning Committee (including Unsung Heroine Event Subcommittee)
4. Personnel Committee

The full Commission meets regularly on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except in July and August.

MCSW STANDING COMMITTEES FY 2008-09

Executive Committee

- Chair
 - Vice Chair
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Co-Chair, Legislation & Public Policy
 - Chair, Program & Planning
 - Co-Chairs, Budget & Personnel
 - Immediate Past Chair
- Staff Liaison: Executive Director attends/non-voting

Work & Responsibilities:

- Address Operational/Organizational Issues
- Ensures Commission adheres to bylaws and open meeting laws
- Communications with Appointing Authorities
- Fiscal oversight of Commission's operating and trust fund budgets
- Ensure and advocate for the agency having adequate resources
- Evaluating Executive Direction job performance, Staff Hiring approvals
- Initiating Officer Nomination Process
- Monitor Committee Functioning

Legislation & Public Policy Committee

Work & Responsibilities:

- Recommend legislation to the full Commission for endorsement
- Helps the Commission advise executive, legislative and other bodies of the effect on women of proposed legislation
- Impacts public policy through advocacy, including verbal and written testimony and other means of support for bills the Commission has endorsed
- Advise appointing authorities on legislative issues through verbal and written testimony and other means of support for bills the Commission has endorsed
- Advocate for research regarding the status of women in the Commonwealth and for utilizing research to achieve positive outcomes for women

Staff Liaison: Staff Outreach Coordinator

Program & Planning Committee

Plans and directs implementation of the Commission's statewide activity including:

- Public hearings
- Regional Councils
- Women's Commissions
- Speakers Bureau & Media outreach
- Communications
- Unsung Heroine Event Subcommittee

Work & Responsibilities:

Plans the Commission's annual signature event and program

Oversees the nomination process and Honoree selections

Solicits event sponsors and in-kind contributions

Works with assigned staff and interns to implement logistics

Staff Liaison: Staff Program Coordinator

Personnel & Budget Committee

Work & Responsibilities:

Commissioners are responsible to hire an Executive Director and staff as needed. The scope of Personnel Committee work includes:

- Hiring
 - Writing and updating job description of the Executive Director
 - Recruiting, Interviewing, Recommending Hire for Executive Director Position
 - Approving job descriptions of all support staff
 - Reviewing finalists selected by Executive Director for staff positions
- Evaluation
 - MCSW Chair is the Supervisor of the Executive Director
 - MCSW Chair evaluates the Executive Director year round utilizing ACES
 - All Commissioners receive a copy of both the Executive Director's agreed upon Goals for the year and the Executive Director's full annual evaluation at the end of the year.
- Personnel/Office Policy.

Staff Liaison: Executive Director

MCSW BUDGET

Commission on the Status of Women BUDGET FY 09		
		January reduction
Total Income from State Appropriation	\$252,000	\$240,000
Expenses		
Salaries	\$186,584	\$186,584
Operating Expenses	\$66,416	\$66,404
Total Expenses	\$252,000	\$240,000

Mid-year fiscal reductions impacted the agency's capacity. Other changes during the year included staff changes. The MCSW Executive Director left the agency in August 2008 and an Interim Director was named who served in that role for four months. On December 1st, a new Executive Director joined the agency staff.

PROGRAM & PLANNING

Public Hearings

In keeping with its mandate to study and report on the status of women in Massachusetts, the MCSW holds regional public hearings to hear the concerns of women and community members. Area legislators and public officials are invited to join members of the public in providing testimony which the Commission uses to shape and influence its legislative advocacy work.

2008-09 regional hearing calendar:

Essex County Region, Torigan Life Center, Peabody, 12/10/08

Framingham-Metro-West Region, Framingham State College, Framingham, 2/25/09

A transcript of testimony is included in this report.

Regional Commissions Network

During 2008-2009, the MCSW successfully spearheaded legislation establishing two new local women's commissions to join the Berkshire County Commission:

- Bristol County Commission , S1172, a nine member panel, sworn in during March 2009
- Cape & Islands Commission, S2884, a 13 member panel, sworn in during June 2009 (Four meetings were held between September 08 and the passing of legislation).

Modeled after the state commission, the MCSW announces the formal establishing of the commission once the legislation has passed, solicits Commissioner applications, reviews and appoints Commissioners and then hosts a formal inaugural event to have new Commissioners sworn in by the Secretary of State's office and conduct an opening session.

Additionally, MCSW is a resource for the 10 already-established Commissions.

Coalitions & Collaborations

In line with the Commission's mission to promote and facilitate collaboration among local women's commissions and women's organizations, the Commission frequently partners with other organizations to support efforts of joint concern.

International Women's Day Co-Host

Along with university and government partners, the MCSW co-hosts a celebration of International Women's Day by co-sponsoring an annual informational gathering. This year the event was hosted at Simmons College, had over 150 attendees, and featured panelist addressing an environmental theme echoed throughout the world.

Below is an excerpt from the program press release:

"Access to healthy food and unpolluted water is essential to every community. Historically and throughout many cultures, women have been primarily responsible for gathering food and water for their families and communities. Because of this, women have an essential interest in their food and water supplies. Increasingly, it is who owns the production of our food and who controls the access to our water that determines our ability to provide safe, nutritious food and clean water to our families.

The MCSW maintains active membership in the following coalitions:

- *Care For Youth Coalition*: attend monthly steering committee meetings, testified on legislation, through interns produced research, share and promote information
- *Disparities Action Network*: meets monthly, share and promote information
- *Paid Sick*: meets monthly and advocates for passage of this legislation. MCSW participation has included legislative testimony, advocacy campaigns, information sharing through newsletter and web site
- *Strategies for Children, the Early Education for All Campaign (EEA)*: share and promote information
- *New England Women's Commissions*, convened by the US Dept of Labor, Reg. 1.

RESOURCES & REFERRALS

WIN (Women's Information Network)

The MCSW hosts WIN, a comprehensive online database featuring profiles of over 2,000 service providers throughout the Commonwealth. Accessed on the Web at www.mcswnetwork.com, WIN allows users to search for what they need by geographic region and/or service area or topic either from their home computers at public libraries, colleges, community centers, etc.

One of the charges of the MCSW is to serve as a clearinghouse for information on issues pertaining to women and WIN is one way of providing this service. WIN is continuously augmented and improved. We are always seeking local, community, regional, statewide and in some cases federal resources and providers. This includes, but is not limited to, direct service organizations addressing such issues as domestic violence, cancer prevention, business networking, GBLT concerns, and healthcare.

WIN stats between July 2008 and April 2009:

- 116,090 "virtual visitors"
- an average of referrals per day: 425

MCSW Website

The Commission's Web site (www.mass.gov/women) is a user-friendly tool that constituents can access to learn about the Commission, its work, its publications and resources, as well as other available resources. Features of the Commission's Web site include a list of domestic violence and sexual assault hotline numbers on a local, state, and national level as well as information on topics such as child care, economic issues, education, elder advocacy, health and insurance advocacy, housing advocacy, and legal assistance.

Constituent Contact

The Commission office is open to assist constituents who walk in, telephone, or e-mail with questions or concerns. The Commission staff provides either information or referrals. Needs and issues frequently raised include: domestic violence, legal assistance, health insurance, child care & support, employment rights, maternity leave policies, unemployment, financial assistance, child custody and divorce, equal pay, and research questions.

Research

The Commission regularly engages in research on the status of women in Massachusetts, alone and in collaboration with other organizations. This year the MCSW is updating its "State of Women: A County by County Report on Women and Girls of Massachusetts" which was published last year. Per feedback received, this year's version will specifically examine the state of women living in urban vs. rural areas of the state. The Commission has published two "how to:" guidebooks aimed at raising women's participation in government endorsed commission work. Both are distributed to any constituent seeking guidance and all newly appointed Commissioners on the regional level:

- **A Handbook for Developing Women's Commissions**
- **How To get Appointed to Boards & Commissions**

LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY

The Commission provides information, impact statements and assistance to elected officials and the public regarding legislation affecting women and families in Massachusetts. The Legislative Committee evaluates proposed legislation and recommends endorsement to the full Commission. Once endorsed, Commission members provide written or spoken testimony, identify and gather community support and are available to support legislation in response to the request of legislators.

Endorsed Legislation – 185th General Court

CHILDREN & FAMILY

An Act Establishing the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Commission (H617/S86)

An Act Relative to Caregiver Medical and Educational Consent (S69/H1151)

An Act Relating to Improving Quality in Early Education and Care by Family Child Care Providers (S2286)

PAY EQUITY

An Act to Further Defining Comparable Work (H1869/S1070)

An Act to Authorize the Human Resources Division to Undertake a Study of the State's Job Classification System (H2826/S2386)

An Act Supporting Strong Families by Providing Paid Family and Medical Leave, Increasing Tax Deductions, and establishing a Work-Family Council (S114)

An Act Relative to Equitable Coverage for Annuity Policies (S622/H901)

An Act to Establish Paid Sick Days (H1803/S1073)

An Act to Establish a Self-Sufficiency Standard in Massachusetts (H3664/S1133)

An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in Insurance Policies (S2188)

An Act Relative to Bullying in the Workplace (H1850)

EDUCATION

An Act to Provide Health Education in Schools (H597)

An Act Relative to Early Education and Care (H3776)

HEALTH CARE

An Act to Eliminate Health Disparities in the Commonwealth (H2234)

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

An Act Establishing the Bristol County Commission on the Status of Women (S1172)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

An Act Establishing a Campus Rape and Sexual Assault Prevention Advisory Council (S737)

An Act to Relating to Anti-Human Trafficking and Protection (S97)

An Act to Prevent Harassment (S1002)

An Act to Protect and Enhance the Rights of Child and Adult Victims and Witnesses and Crime (S802)

An Act Relative to Gender Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes (H1722)

Endorsed Legislation – 186th General Court

PAY EQUITY

(S689/H1880) An Act to Further Defining Comparable Work

(S1408/H2665) An Act to Authorize the Human Resources Division to Undertake a Study of the State's Job Classification System

(S71) An Act Supporting Strong Families by Providing Paid Family and Medical Leave, Increasing Tax Deductions, and establishing a Work-Family Council

(S688/H1815) An Act to Establish Paid Sick Days

(S730/H1792) An Act to Establish a Self-Sufficiency Standard in Massachusetts

EDUCATION

(S218/H3434), An Act to Provide Health Education in Schools

HEALTH CARE

(S810) An Act to Eliminate Health Disparities in the Commonwealth

(S811) An Act to Establish Community-Based Grant Programs to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(S58) An Act to Relating to Anti-Human Trafficking and Protection

(S1611) An Act Relative to Sexual Assault and Stalking Restraining Orders

(S1559) An Act to Protect and Enhance the Rights of Child and Adult Victims and Witnesses of Crime

(H1728) An Act Relative to Gender Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes

(H1861) An Act Relative to Bullying in the Workplace

INITIATIVES

Annual “Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts” event

This year the MCSW hosted its 6th Annual Unsung Heroine Celebration at the State House. This event honored 100 Unsung Heroines from cities and towns across the Commonwealth. The Unsung Heroines are women who quietly, without fanfare or recognition, make the Commonwealth a better place to work and live. The Unsung Heroines “don’t make the news, but make a difference”.

Each winter, the Commission seeks nominations to identify women who perform unheralded acts of generosity. The nomination process identifies women of all ages, all economic, political, geographic and ethnic backgrounds. After reviewing all of the nominations, a selection committee identified 100 outstanding citizens to be honored. All 100 Unsung Heroine awardees are notified and invited to attend a ceremony.

This event is funded through generous corporate sponsorship and donations.

MCSW Internships

Preparing the next generation of women leaders remains a key priority for the Commission and as an extension of this commitment, extends internship opportunities to young women from universities and colleges across the Commonwealth. Internships, both for credit and non-credit, are extended during fall semester, spring semester and again through the summer. During the 2008-09 school year, the Commission hosted 9 interns, who provided 3,000 hours of work-time at the office.

MCSW interns are required to devote 16 hours/week for the duration of their internship and assist staff on a variety of projects that operationalize the priorities of the Commission:

- Communication production --website/newsletter
- event management - public hearings, regional council meetings Unsung Heroine event
- update MCSW resource brochures, handbooks and other literature
- research & prepare legislation summaries
- contribute to research projects
- attend Commission meeting, subcommittee meetings and external partner meeting

MA Conference for Women

In December, the Commission co-sponsored the Third Annual Massachusetts Conference for Women at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in South Boston. The Conference is a one-day event where Massachusetts women can connect, learn practical and professional strategies from nationally recognized experts, and network with peers. The Commission sponsored an exhibition hall booth and presented and participated in workshops

The Conference attracted more than 5,000 attendees and serves to build connections and enhance collaboration. More than 75 renowned experts in the fields of health and wellness, business and finance, community involvement, career development, and personal growth were featured in breakout sessions throughout the day.

APPENDIX

Massachusetts Commission of the Status of Women
Essex Public Hearing
December 10, 2009 6:00pm-8:00pm
Framingham State College, Framingham

Hearing Minutes

John Blodgett, District Attorney of Essex County- testified about **domestic violence prevention and prosecution** in Essex County. He reported that the County has improved their training programs for police officers. There is ongoing and enhanced collaboration between local police departments and the District attorney's office. Over the past three months every police officer in Swampscott, Peabody, Salem, Amesbury and Danvers has been trained on the tell tale signs of an abuser and battered signs. He reported that in response to changed decision of courts that have made hear say testimony inadequate for prosecution they continue to train police officer and first responders to write detailed reports before injuries of abuse that is seen are treated. Statewide serial batterers are a problem, **"78% of the people who are prosecuted for domestic violence are people who have been consistent over the months, they are people who are serial batterers and the most cunning of these serial batterers are true predators. They have multiple victims, they have been involved in multiple jurisdictions, they have been involved in multiple court cases."** His suggestion is that the commission asks the Department of Probation, Childhood Data Collection and other related entities to do better at keeping track of those individuals who have been in the system on numerous occasions. He is **supporting a senate bill S62 that will target serial batterers and give them longer sentences up to 5years** which will keep victims safe and allow victims to heal and recover financially while the perpetrator is being held. He hoped the commission will get involved. Another issue briefly mentioned was that of high increase in cases of **juvenile domestic violence against members of the household specifically with parents being the victims.**

Barbara St. Pierre, Chair of Gloucester Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Partnership- testified about **child sexual abuse as a public health epidemic** in the U.S. as declared by the CDC. Sexual abuse **affects 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys before they reach the age of 15.** Child sexual abuse may have life long consequences including poor health and mental outcome. The epidemic is fueled by shame, secrecy and denial which allow for the harm of children to continue. **'86% of all victims of sexual assault both children and adults are female, 69% of victims are under the age of six and up to 96% of offenders of child sexual abuse are reported to be male.'** Statistics are likely to be lower than actual figures. The Partnership including the Enough Abuse Campaign of Massachusetts is aimed at **prevention of child sexual abuse.** "Greater than 90% of all sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone who knows that child or the family." Her three recommendations are that:

1. All adults and communities commit to becoming educated about the tell tale signs of child sexual abuse and child sexual abusers and act on this.
2. The establishment of a statewide clearing house for child sexual abuse prevention efforts in Massachusetts is prioritized.

3. That the need for financial support in the prevention effort be recognized and included by the State.

Their initial grant was from the CDC. For more information visit www.enoughabuse.org

Karen Kline, North Andover, started an organization American Community Think tank– testified about **increased youth violence** at home, and the relation with economic situation. She commented about parents sending children with problems to schools for teachers to deal with the problems that they have failed to address. She recommended **alternative programs that are affordable for at risk children.**

Bridget Brewer, Leisa Lackland and Hillarie McGuffie, Girls Inc, Lynn- testified about **young women needing to be in charge of their sexual health and relationships in order to be in charge of other critical areas of their lives.** They mentioned education and higher education achievement being necessary to reduce levels of **teen pregnancy.** Mi Vida, Mi Viaje is a teen pregnancy prevention program offered by Girls Inc, Lynn that works directly with girls and their families. The girls have to be age 11 to 15 and must have an older brother or sister who is a teen parent to qualify for the program. They run after school programs and Bridget teaches pregnancy prevention programs in schools. They provide resource and information to girls. **They requested help in advocating for parents who receive vouchers for childcare based on income statuses that have been laid off.** After parents are laid off they can only receive the vouchers for 8 – 12 weeks and thereafter are cut off. **“72 % of the girls served by Girls Inc. live in single parent homes with their mothers.”** These parents may be out looking for work or are underemployed and are not in a position to pay for the program or provide the care that these programs offer such as transport, healthy meals, help with home work, activities and enrichment programs.

Tammy Heaberlin, North Andover- testified about domestic violence, child abuse and **parent alienation/child alienation.** She spoke about parent alienation among divorced parents as a form of **emotional child abuse.** The child is brainwashed to break the relationship that the he/she once had with the other parent. She recommended **programs in schools for children with divorced parents to teach children what is normal.** She also brought up that this was once only a problem that men experience but women are also beginning to experience this alienation where children are often used as tools of revenge against the former spouse. Divorce is on the rise and several **states have declared Parent Alienation Awareness Day, however not Massachusetts.**

Sunny Robinson, Founder and Co-Chair of Gloucester’s Coalition for the Prevention of Domestic Abuse- testified about **teen pregnancy** and **domestic abuse.** She addressed **media impact around sexuality, sexualization and consumerism around sexuality** as it pertains to teen pregnancy. Her recommendation to the commission was “to help young women and girls have other ways of being powerful, feeling powerful and

expressing their role in the world." Domestic abuse is a public health problem as it affects the entire community not just the victim or abuser. She **recommends that the commission stipulate and support the growth of coalitions to bring public and private citizens together to increase awareness** in the community. She mentioned District Attorney Blodgett's **bill S62 as being a step that will change the environment in which people commits acts of domestic abuse**. She spoke about increased militarization and female soldiers reporting abuse in the military and having to keep quiet about it. She **recommended that the commission collaborate with veterans associations to figure out how to do something about this problem**.

Elizabeth Renn, Assistant Director of North Shore Rape Crisis Center- testified about the free services offered by North Shore Rape Crisis Center and about the **need for continued funding**. She recommended a continued focus on the future of women, specifically about health and education as a right.

Kirsten Bergethon, Social Worker- testified about **crimes against women** including stalking, rape, dating violence and domestic violence. Domestic violence education is not enough, penalties are too light, rapists spend little time in jail and robbery is taken more seriously than rape. She expressed the need for a change in the way people think about women. **Crimes against women are hate crimes with a need for matching penalties**.

Karen Sarete, Swampscott- testified about her divorce from an **abusive spouse** who threatened to kill her. Her former **spouse will not pay child support** and the legal system has not been helpful to her both in making him pay child support and in keeping him away from her. Her children are in counseling and she is in a **desperate financial situation**.

Amanda DeJesus, Child care service provider from Lynn- testified about needing a representative in the house to support the **family child care bill** which has not passed in the past sessions. This bill would enhance the quality of child care, and she recommended that the **commission support** the bill.

Kimberly Whitmore, Director of Information Services of North Shore Elder Services- testified that "**Roughly 70% of family care givers for older adults are female**." There are several programs in Massachusetts funded by both state and federal funding that provide support to family care givers. However, currently spouses in Massachusetts are excluded from being able to become a primary care giver. **The state will not pay a spouse to be a primary care giver but will pay an adult daughter or son** even though a spouse usually has to quit working to take care of that adult. There are several states that have changed their model of the Medicare program to include spouses. She asked that the **commission support the amendment of Section 9 of Chapter 118E** which

Mass Home Care is supporting which will change the language to include spouses within the definition of family members to be paid for care.

Representative Mary Grant- testified about beginning to think about **public policy** that will deal with **economic security**. There are not many pensions and families who are in a situation where higher care is costing so much and they are left in a position where they are not able save for their own care and it is **mostly women who are left behind that are not economically secure and headed into poverty**.

Chair of the hearing testified about **women's economic security and development**. She recommended that the commission continue in the short term advocating for services but in the long term think about the root causes of those problems and how to level the playing field.

Kim Daly, Nurse Practitioner, Rockport- testified about helping organizations trying to **prevent teen pregnancy**. She advocated for **comprehensive health care for teens**. She recommended three things as being necessary to prevent teen pregnancy:

1. Access to accurate information. They need to have comprehensive education.
2. Access to comprehensive health services which may be confidential.
3. A sense of future goals.

She said there is need to identify at risk young girls and more of an emphasis on looking at youth and the problems that affect them. She said that when budget cuts occur school based health programs are usually the first to be cut and this affects the future of our state.

Salem- testified about **children of divorce education programs**. She mentioned state mandate divorce education programs that were done in the past in other states and how beneficial they were to the children and **recommended that these programs be done in Massachusetts**.

Massachusetts Commission of the Status of Women
Framingham/MetroWest Public Hearing
February 25, 2009 6:00pm-8:00pm
Framingham State College, Framingham

Hearing Minutes

Present Commissioners: Marisa DiFranco from Middletown, Liz Houlihan from Falmouth, Helen Corbett from Middleton, Donna Finneran from Mattapan, Marianne Fletcher from Westford, Chris Chanyasulkit from Brookline, Lucy Harty from Northhampton, Greer Swiston from Newton, Ruth Bramson from Dover, Linda Cavaoli from Worcester, Joanne Fitzgerald McCrea from Salem, Liz Hart from Malden.

Staff: Kim Sebastio, Kira Dunn, Rebekah Fiehn

Attendees: Jennifer Maseda, Megan Christopher, Leah Robins (Rep. Dykema), Shawn MacMaster (D.A. Leone), Lloyd Kaye (Framingham Town Meeting), Sen. Spilka, Rep. Sannicandro, Jessica Leitz, Leila Boudouani, Pamela Thorley, Amy Kasaras, Judy Sayer, Aletis Silver, Robyn Mclaughlin, Lauren Schneider, Tanya Kivi, Rep. Richardson, Leslie Akins, Julia Nix, Cindy Bechtel, Mandy Darnell, Ruth Backman, Amanda Krasnoff, Amy Vora, Jen Deerihy, Pooja Raw, Tracy Carpenter, Kent Stein, Lily Hsu, Dr. Carole Joseph, Kitty Mahoney,

Welcome

Commissioner Greer opened the hearing and asked the other commissioners to introduce themselves. Then the hearing was opened for testimony.

Testimony

Lily Hsu: Resident of Framingham. Chair of the **Metrowest Community Health Care Foundation**, a non profit organization whose mission is to address the unmet health needs of residents who live in twenty-five cities and towns in Metrowest. In the ten year history of the Foundation, we have founded a number of projects that directly benefit the health of women, daughters and family members. In these tough times the needs of women and all residents of the area have increased, especially for those who have no health insurance or limited English proficiency. The data we have collected shows that women and other venerable populations tend to either forgo or experience in greater intensity certain health related issues. The **Kaiser Family Foundation** recently found that individuals make choices between necessary and basic items, like prescription medications, food, gas and heat during economic downturns. The Wall Street Journal notes even those with health coverage would tend to defer health care during these times. In our own area the rates of domestic violence is reported on the rise by the MetroWest Daily News, trend that occurs whenever there is a recession. Existing conditions which have been documented for some MetroWest communities such as ethnic health disparities in disease rates such as breast cancer. Over all the rates breast cancer in MetroWest are above the state average, with MetroWest averaging 139.8/100,000 residents vs. the state of Massachusetts average of 131/100,000. Another disturbing statistic is the rate of teen pregnancy. Framingham's rate is 28.1/1000, and Marlborough is 29.1/1000 girls. Both of these statistics are above the state average of 22.2/1000. In response to these issues the Foundation has provided funding to support teen pregnancy and reproductive health programs, recently we awarded a 25,000 dollar grant. Pediatric and prenatal case manager support, to ensure pregnant women and new moms' access to health care at the rate of 53000 dollars. Domestic violence prevention programs at just under 90000, funding for a free medical clinic in our area

128000 dollars. One of our largest and most successful programs which has shown improved health status as well as cost savings to individuals has been a prescription medication program that provides free or reduced price medications; we have funded this project over the past three years at 235000 dollars. We have funded an access to health care programs which assist the residents to get health coverage with another grant of 139000. Most recently we responded to the needs of some of the food pantries in our communities and awarded a total of 200000 dollars to the all of the food pantries of MetroWest cities and towns so that they could address some of the basic need. Our foundation will continue its efforts to address the health care needs of MetroWest which very often directly affect women. Because of the significant role women play as caretakers and heads of households, it also means the devastating times on families of MetroWest will impact or next generation. We ask the CSW to partner with us to advocate for services and resources to address what are basic human needs. Thank you for this time.

Greer: Questions?

Hsu: About two years ago the foundation decided to be somewhat more proactive in its mission to address health needs. National data as well as local data we had collected, showed surprising rates of obesity and overweight children as well as lack of activity has been well documented. We launched a public media campaign that attracted some attention and we were very pleased to see that it raised awareness. In addition to that we have funded a number of projects from starting a special initiative to a lot organizations grants for funding for help for populations. Several of the projects have been successful. We are now starting to see results, and I am very happy about that.

Greer: Thank you. The next speaker is Kitty Mahoney.

Mahoney: Thank you to the MCSW and Framingham State College for hosting tonight's public hearing. My name is Kitty Mahoney, I am a single parent and I am also a **public health nurse for Framingham**. Since single family homes are predominately women as heads of households given that public health nursing is predominantly a female profession, I think that gives me a rather unique position to testify both personally and professionally tonight, the economic impact has had on families and public health nursing both.

All families, including single parent ones, have been advised to tighten our belts, no make frivolous or unnecessary purchases and suggest dining in instead of dining out. Madams, I tell you, we have been doing that for some time now. What advice is left on that front where there is no more tightening to be had? What do families carve it out of when there are no more savings to dip into? I am here to tell you where many find it. Health insurance is the first to go when a job is lost or hours reduced. Women and their children go without annual physical or dental exams, pap smears, mammograms they will go without important health screenings and sometimes they will go without prescription medication at all so that they and their children can at a minimum, continue to dine. Abandoned are the ideals such as dietary recommendations, more produce and less processed meals, and they are replaced by dollar menu items because it is cheaper to feed the family. Overcrowded living conditions take on a whole new meaning when a two-bedroom apartment houses not two individuals or event two couples but two families of ten and it becomes a communal breeding ground for mental illness and physical disease. As a public health nurse, I see it in my office daily. I see first hand the consequences of childhood obesity, domestic violence and absolute desperate substance abuse questions. Just when your local public health nurse whose primary function is to promote the health and well

being of her community through health campaigns, immunizations and important health screenings vital to the early detection of diseases, absent any other health care, her budget is now reduced or her position is eliminated entirely. It is false economy to reduce public health nursing staff with the belief that there will be savings. Moreover, it is when the economic times are difficult that public health infrastructure must be strengthened not diminished because if you think prevention is expensive, wait until you see how much disease costs. The insurance mandate in Massachusetts does not translate into everyone having access to health care when the local providers are at their maximum patient load of accepting that kind of insurance. I am here tonight to champion the rights of women, children, immigrants and working people as well as advocate the need to strengthen and galvanize public health nursing. But a colleague of mine, made this very same request in New York. She championed these same causes of children and families, immigrants and working people. She too worked in public health nursing. Her name was Lillian Wald, and she did it in 1915. My concern? That I am here tonight making the same arguments that have been made for nearly 100 years. I have something that Lillian did not, suffrage, I have the right to vote. So to the Governor and to this Commission, I pledge to use that right to insure the advocacy efforts continue now. Thank you.

Greer: Questions?

(None)

Jennifer Maseda called to testify

Maseda: Hello my name is Jen Maseda, I work for the **United Way Tri-County** and I am representing the **Framingham Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition**. Thank you for selecting teen pregnancy as one of your initiatives for 2009. We have been working with the **Mass Alliance on Teen Pregnancy** and we have been also working with the department of elementary and secondary education. There are many perspectives on the importance of preventing teen pregnancy; there are social and emotional effects, the mother and father and extended family of the child and of course a cost to the taxpayer. The cost to Massachusetts taxpayers in 2004 was upwards of 2 million dollars. So we used the figures from the **National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancies** the average cost associated of a child born to a mother under 19 as 1430.00 to a child born to a mother under 17 its 4080.00. If we use those figures then the cost to Framingham last year, you can image because this year we had 21 teen pregnancies in the Framingham public schools system and 26 parents being served in their **Framingham Teen Parent Program**. Teen moms will most likely need public assistance including food stamps and housing. There will be a loss of tax revenue due to loss of earnings from lower education attainment; the overwhelming majority of the cost is to those children of teen mothers. These children as adults have also decreased earning and spending because of lower education attainment, public health care costs, incarceration costs, child welfare costs. Children and teen mothers are also likely to suffer high rates of child abuse and neglect for what for. Live in single parent households, enter the child welfare system and become teen mothers themselves. There are three components to our Framingham Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition. First is access to comprehensive sexual health education, second is access to condoms and contraceptives for sexually active youths and third the perception of opportunity and hope for a bright future. Let me talk about that last component because in order to make a true and lasting change in teen pregnancy rates and in preventing teen pregnancy, we must expand our view of teen pregnancy, combining it with successful community wide approaches which call parents, religious leaders, health care providers,

schools and teens to action, with broad efforts to influence values and attitudes towards pop culture, to change the economic incentives that face teens and much more. We should be encouraged by research which shows some programs are making a difference, and we should work towards replicating those programs which have proven to be successful. We should also grow new efforts using the common elements of successful programs to build an even more impactful program and we should explore, develop, evaluate and share our findings of new and innovative approaches for preventing teen pregnancy. So thank you again for selecting teen pregnancy as your initiative and we look forward to your support.

Greer: Questions?

Cavaioli: Jen is there comprehensive health education with in the school or outside of the school?

Maseda: Its both, we are working with the school systems and we are also working with the community service providers for youth. So this curriculum will be evaluated from a community perspective and also from a school perspective.

DeFranco: I have two questions; did you say the cost to the state was two billion or two million?

Maseda: Two million

DeFranco: Do you have any numbers on how many teen parents end up in the DFS system vs. the adult population.

Maseda: No. I was talking about the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

DeFranco: I thought you said they go into the system and they become teen mothers themselves. Foster care?

Maseda: Actually I was using some of the statistics from the Framingham Teen Parenting Analysis that said they been. I don't have those numbers but I'd be happy find out for you.

DeFranco: Yeah, because I would like to know if there was a higher, I mean does DCF focus more on that. Do their kids end up in care?

Greer: Recognized Representative Pam Richardson

Megan Christopher called to Testify

Christopher: Good evening, I am grateful for the opportunity to address you. I will tell you that I had expected that the room would be so mobbed and that there would be some many people that I did not prepare any testimony but I am grateful to have the opportunity to speak. I work at **MetroWest Legal Services**. I represent low income victims of domestic violence and their contested probate court matters and I also representing women in many restraining order actions. We are very grateful to the state for recent funding and support for our working on immigrant victims of domestic violence and it is clear to us that there is a need much greater than what we will be able to provide, but we are grateful for the opportunity to do as much as we can. I have two concerns which I think are significant to the commission one is the concerns

about the impact of significant cuts on the availability of shelters to homeless families. This the whole system of providing emergency shelter to homeless families is being completely revamped right as we speak and there are new regulations that are being proposed which will significantly, enormously reduce the number of homeless families which are eligible to live in shelters while they are homeless. This is going to include people who have been in subsidized housing and either have left it or been evicted. Sometimes those things happen as a result of something that is beyond the ability of the household to control, such as criminal activity of a child, and is very easily experience to the financial choice between repairing a car to get to work to pay the rent that can put you behind the wall that you may never dig your way out of. In these particular times we see people losing hours and eroding income, losses in child support received due loss of job from custodial parents. We can see that those low income families are really in a very difficult situation. There is movement which is largely spearheaded by **Mass Law Reform** and **Greater Boston Legal Services** and I have just received today a draft of a letter which I will send to the commission by the end of the week, on the issues very important to us here. I think one of the things that are significant is that we can balance on the back of the poor communities. I also have concerns about the way our system responds to domestic violence I will say that overall that after twenty years of work with victims and survivors that we see very inconsistent results across the board and that largely comes out of a wide variance of perception of victims claims as they arise of probate and family court case and restraining orders. One of the most serious problems we see most frequently is victim may call the police and get a restraining order out of the district court but its not a family court, they don't think of themselves as family court they don't want to do it in family court but in the context of that restraining order they may order child support that financial aid may be the one think that makes it possible for a victim to continue in an effort to remain separate from an abuser, I think that is really critical that we look at how that hasn't been in efforts on advocacy efforts on the front of working with the trial court which have been on going. I feel as though outside of that having other efforts would be very helpful. I believe that **Judge Carey of the Probate and Family Court** is very interested in working on issues around domestic violence and all other forms of accountability in the probate and family courts, and I know that she is very open to interest from the commission, not to speak for her but I know from experiences with her that she is very interested in accountability and she is a very excellent administrator. One of the thinks that the gender equity study which was done in the early nineties of the court system had a huge impact on the court system but it is twenty years old, and if the commission at some point, I understand that there maybe other priorities, but if the commission could see its way through to undertaking that kind of study I have no doubt that it would again another impact on the court system. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you.

Greer: Questions

Cavaoli: Is there legislation, Megan, around the trial court?

Christopher: No, it is in the district court it is encouraged by the administrative justices and it is permissible under the statute for child support to be ordered, it is not required and since it is a matter left to the discretion of the district court judges as a general proposition and I am not singling anybody out but I will tell you that it is very rare. You can probably count on one hand the number of times that the judges I know are willing to entertain those measures.

Cavaoli: So how would we get at/is there possible legislation that could be ultimately be put forth?

Christopher: Part of what I was thinking was that the study/the impact of the gender equity study could be something that would be part of an educational process. I wouldn't say that training always results in education but I do think that studies which have substantiation are very persuasive.

Fleckner: Just two questions. Similar to Linda's question I was thinking about pending legislation. You had mentioned you could give us a copy of the letter that you were drafting this moment. Who are you addressing that letter to?

Christopher: That letter is part of/actually concerned about the generation of new regulations by the **Department of Transitional Assistance**,

Cavaoli: The thirty hour requirement of work and....

Christopher: Yes and you know at this time when people are struggling to look for work at all, to require that people work, and also without child care subsidies. I mean they are standing around thinking well what am I going to do with this, so that kind of ideas without looking at long term are not helpful I think. One of the big things is that say I decide I don't want to live in subsidized housing anymore because it's unsafe or I had another option or something else, you just left your subsidy and you fell on hard times it could be far more difficult to reenter the shelter.

So would that letter go to the Governor or..

Christopher: It would go to the DTA staff that is formulating the regulations.

DeFranco: You mentioned that you worked with the immigrant populations and do you specifically work on petitions that women themselves come in petitioning about abusive relationships seeking asylum?

Christopher: We just received notice of a grant from **Rise Funding** on the behalf of immigrant victims of domestic violence and trafficking and victims of crime and we are just starting to do that work out here in the Framingham area and we are grateful for that opportunity. We do represent people between 495 and 128 from sort of Bedford all the way down the line, it's a chunk.

DeFranco: Do you have any feedback with the police on undocumented immigrants and domestic violence? Do they call?

Christopher: That's a complicated question. Well yes there are occasions when I think victims are very concerned with calling the police and it is not only about the police response to the victim. Sometimes the victim calls and there is no one who speaks that victims language. So it is really difficult, if there is an English speaking person saying that person did it and there is a person speaking something you don't understand. That can workout with some difficulty. One of the biggest things that we see as problematic is that victims are also very concerned with the other person. What is going to happen to the other person? I want to stop being a victim but I don't want necessarily want the other person disappearing, because we have a relationship, maybe we have children. Its hard, the police have their job to do, sometimes they may be more

enthusiastic about certain aspects of than immigrants rights advocates may like but I understand there is a range of response that are appropriate.

DeFranco: I ask because the state is taking the position that they are not going to deputize local police to be immigration officers.

Christopher: And that's its not so much about what has happened as the knowledge. Also there are concerned which you can see not only here but in other areas about immigration enforcement and whether or not it is being done appropriately, maybe you heard on NPR last week the story about the people who decided that they would just go and in 7/11 and ???. That is the kind of thing that makes it difficult to work with immigrants because they are not sure they are safe.

Greer: Acknowledged Lloyd Kaye

Senator Spilka called to testify.

Sen. Spilka: Thank you, I am Karen Spilka, I am Senator of what is the formal **2nd Middlesex and Norfolk District**. Thank you for coming to Framingham, Greater Framingham, and MetroWest and the acknowledgement that this is a critical area of the state. So I want to thank you for coming out here and holding the hearing out here and it is wonderful to see all of you here. And thank you for coming to Framingham State College which is a joy in my district.... I was prior **Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Disabled Persons** and I just have some issues, some which are more important than others. I do just want to generally state and urge you, I know that you are all aware of this to begin with but, at times of/at tough fiscal times in times of recession I feel that women tend to hit the hardest with unemployment. (End of Tape) Or to keep them in work, their unemployment levels rise and the impact that it has, the negative impact on the children of our Commonwealth as well. So I thank you for being a voice for all of that. We need to focus, I know that times are tight and money is really tight, but we need to really focus on insuring that there is the child care necessary to send the kid to child care so the mothers can go to work or education, to start learning so they can become self-sufficient or stay in jobs. I think that it is something we as a Commonwealth need to focus on. Job retraining for women, I think that is really important, there are jobs here in the MetroWest and in the Commonwealth that we need to make sure women get job retraining if they are unemployed or laid off to continue. I think that we need to continue to look at things such as comparable work statute which you have to make sure, this is something we used to call pay equity. I laugh because back in the mid-eighties I worked for the state office of employee relations and I remember negotiating with some of the unions and the state, at that point it was the legislature that I didn't know much about but it was talking about pay equity. Here we are twenty years later and we are still talking about pay equity and comparable work and its times and I think that there are some changes, it's not going to cost money to make some of the changes in the law at least to change the definition of what is comparable work. I think that Megan mentioned the **DTA/DHCD** is going through some changes in their regulations. They have extended the common date for comments, originally the comments were due this Friday, they are having another hearing March 13th. There are some changes that I have some concerns about and I don't to take up too much time but some of the things that are built into the articles of reorganization, the **Article 87** bill that the Governor filed. For example if a woman has an asset that she sells in the next three years, if she sells her house to pay for food, and shelter she can not go on transitional housing, she won't be able to have access to shelter through the

state. It's a three year time period which I feel is excessive. That is not in the regulation but it is in the Article 87 and there are some other regulations which if you wanted more information either myself or my office could provide, but I think it puts undue burden particularly on women who are trying hard to get out of the cycle of welfare or transitional assistance and trying to into the path of self-sufficiency that we as a state could be doing more. The idea of working with DHCD to proper/fuller array of housing not just shelter makes sense but there are some real concerns I urge this commission to look at and maybe way in on.

Bramson: Two things, the commission is very active in the area of pay equity, we also have a bill pending of **Sen. Chandler's**. My question is you mentioned that there is new regulations around who is eligible for homeless shelters and Megan mentioned that as well in her comments, but I was wondering if you could explain or not.

Sen. Spilka: Lt. Governor is Tim Murray is coordinating it. Its DTA used to offer the shelter the aspect of it and it DHCD had access to the vouchers, so what ended up happening was when someone applied DTA they take the information and the DTA worker would see if there was a need and the criteria had been met for a shelter and DTA had access to the shelter. What the administration wants to do is offer the full array of housing so that we don't put someone in a shelter, since sometimes they do get stuck, so the idea is good idea but what is happening is say a woman goes into a DTA and they apply for the DTA benefits they will also apply for DHCD that never had to do this. They are hoping to take some of the DTA work so it's the same, but they will have to have to paths, but DHCD will then have access, hopefully not just shelter but other forms of housing. We all want to try to get people out of the shelter but it creates two separate paths which advocates are a little concerned about, and making sure they work really closely together and that we are not just creating two more silos.

DiFranco: On this Article 87, does this override the ban for three years?

Sen. Spilka: It's gone.

Greer: What is the rationale behind it?

Sen. Spilka: I am not certain. Another thing that is in the regulation is if they are offered housing and they give a general vicinity/area that the person has agreed upon, they get one shot. If they turn it down once then they go to the end of the line. In the past it has been at least two. There are so many factors particularly around here where we are just starting a regional transit authority or bus service if a person doesn't have a car, and they have to deal with getting their kids off to school and it could be many different factors why that happens. So that concerns me, and I understand why they are try to work with somebody they don't want the person to unreasonably turn that location down. So that does cut the number of people who have access ultimately, which saves money too. I am not certain, unfortunately the Article 87 the legislature had capability of only voting up or down. We cannot amend it, so maybe they can make some changes but the regulations however the comment period has been extended till March 13th, so there is still and opportunity for input, hopefully they will delay the implementation of those associated regulations.

Greer: Recognized Rep. Sannicandro to testify.

Rep. Sannicandro: Thank you... I am Tom Sannicandro and I have been appointed **Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Disabled Person**. A lot of the issues of child rearing and families sometimes get left to women will be heard by the committee, including some of issue Karen talked about. I represent the **women prison**, since I am here, I am not sure if that has come up or not. The issues that we have at the women's prison, there are two main things I would like to bring to everyone's attention. One is the issue of children in the prison, having mothers in the prison. Framingham is doing some good things, they have a home where people can come in and moms can be with their babies on the weekends. We know across the country all of states are a lot more progressive than we are. In the past we were more progressive in Framingham and we need to move back to that attitude because we know its better for the moms, its better for the children, and its better for our whole community if we are taking a more progressive stance on women and their children in prison. Again we will need to look at that and since you are here and this district would like you to focus on that as well. The other issue with the women's prison is the issue of women with mental illness and how women with mental illness end up in that prison. The whole system is, we've tried to do some things to fix it but we know that there are some real problems with it. A woman with mental illness shouldn't end up in that prison because there is no where else for her to go. Even if she hasn't committed a crime she still ends up in prison and that can be, there is no way around that. I think if you tell anyone on the street that it happens, people are just aghast that it goes on.

Commissioner: Why does that happen?

Rep. Sannicandro: I am not exactly sure why that happens. I think it's because...

Sen. Spilka: It happens because there are no beds elsewhere so sometimes families admit, it's a **civil commitment** and they don't realize what it entails. I've been involved with this and its triggered a lot so I am glad Tom is talking about this but what ends up happening is that because they are civilly committed they actually can not get their, particularly if it's a substance abuse issue associated with mental illness they don't get the treatment they need unless there is a criminal allegation attached to it. So not only do they get so many of these women through civil commitment but then they get some sort of criminal claim attached to it so that they can get the treatment the judges do that thinking that they are helping the woman. The civil commitment is for a certain number of weeks and once they are in there a lot of families then discover that the care is what they thought it was going to be. We have been working on increasing the number of bed but that's why many women are committed there.

Rep. Sannicandro: We still have a lot of work to do on that area, and I just thought we really, you are here, you need to hear about it.

Cavaioli: Is there legislation proposed.

Rep. Sannicandro: There was....

Sen. Spilka: I filed bills to prevent civil commitment.

Cavaioli: Do you have the bill number?

Sen. Spilka: For both male and females, to prevent just pure civil commitments to a state prison. That they should get the appropriate treatment.

Greer: Commissioner Cavaoli is actually the chair of our legislative policy committee that's why she asking. She is currently pouring through six thousand bills. It would be helpful working on it.

Sen. Spilka: If you want to contact my office. And I just want to mention that there are issues with incarcerated women that budget was cut for that as well so it was 325000, 250 from DOC, 100 from Dept. of children and families, to help the women connect with their children that was totally wiped out by the 9c cuts that we are looking to restore some of that for 2010.

Cavaoli: You all control money, we don't.

Bramson: I just want to let you know that there are 35 mothers and daughters connecting through the **girl scouts beyond bars program**, which is supported by the girl scouts of Massachusetts. And the DA office has told us about this program.

Rep. Sannicandro: Thank you. There are good things going on up there. We just opened the house up there so that the moms can be with their children but I know we can do a lot more.

Greer: Call on Carole Joseph to testify.

Joseph: I am Carole Joseph, **president of Mass Bay Community College**. Tonight I would like to speak to you all about the students who are women at MBCC and some of their needs and some of the thing they are facing. At Mass Bay we are often the educational vehicle that lifts up women who would otherwise fall back into poverty, domestic violence and other shattering circumstances that could swallow up their promise and hope. I am proud of the work that we do at MBCC for these women and I feel a responsibility to share their needs and aspirations with you tonight. A significant percentage of the women students at Mass Bay, almost 60%, are unlike most college students some are moms, wives, suffered domestic violence and other privations. Some work 40 hours a week while they go to school. Some live in shelters and some cannot even afford books. Yet, they are still in class. Education keeps these women going it is their way up, it is their way out. Pursuing a degree in higher education is a tipping point for many of the women who attend Mass Bay. Prior to coming here I had a conversation with several of the staff who work with our women students in counseling and advising to reconnect, I wanted to make sure that I was representing their needs. I also serve on the board of the One Family Project and so I have seen what is possible and what can be done. I think as many things in education we have the answers we know what to do so we just have to get on doing it. They receive from their instructors and administrators- emotional and intellectual, as well as sound guidance into productive sustainable careers. They gravitate towards helping professions like our nursing and early childhood programs. They are also attracted to our unique forensic DNA program and radiologic technology program. Many of you are familiar with the Boston –based **One Family Program**, which provides women with a direct path out of poverty and towards economic self-sufficiency and a lot of good on personal self esteem. Typically, the One Family Program awards to scholarships to homeless or formerly homeless women with children. As an example of Mass Bay's commitment and support for these women I am proud to say last spring we had four One Family Scholars on our campus and this year it's eight. At Mass Bay their dreams are our mission. We are doing important work both educationally and socially. Our women and our institution deserve your support. I hope we

can count on it in the days, weeks, months and years to come. You are doing important work, you are an important voice and we wanted to make sure tonight that you heard from the women, unlike some of the women are at Framingham State are not living on campus but are facing a lot of other struggles as they try to pull themselves by their boot straps. And as I said we know what to do, One Family is a wonderful project, it needs more funding in order to replicate more of the kind of support that we know is necessary for these people to be successful. So as a woman and as a mom myself I wanted to just continue to encourage you in the work you are doing today and let us know what you are going to do to get the voices out here. Thank you.

Greer: Questions?

Call for testimony.

Kaye: I wasn't expecting to testify tonight but thank you for letting me speak. My name is Lloyd Kaye, I am **town meeting member in Framingham**. I have been in banking my entire adult life, as a commercial loan officer for Citizens Bank, and I helped manage small business portfolio. Doing that managing small business loans, a lot of those loans across the country are managed by women. In 25-30 years that I've been doing this, this past year has been pretty bad and really hard for me. I have seen a tremendous amount women owned businesses, along with many others, go bankrupt or in a foreclosure situation. These businesses are not in the news a lot, you hear about unemployment and unemployment numbers but those are not self-employed unemployment numbers. There are millions of them and there are a lot of them in Massachusetts. I am unaware of the training available for these people once they lose their business. I think that is really important. I am seeing businesses from one side of the Commonwealth to the other along with 27 other states which are in my portfolio. It could be hair salons, automotive, law firms, medical firms, accounting firms which I've seen more of this year than what I've seen in 25 years combined, many of them women owned. Where do they go once they lose those businesses. I would like you to look at that. I am seeing once a business does go out, I have seen a tremendous amount of litigation, a lot of divorce. There is a tremendous amount of that. A lot of economic stress and again what happens to the children and families of the people who are in a sole proprietorship. Every single town in this Commonwealth, the many decades I've been doing this the phone call that I got just a few months ago from this woman who owned a business and was going to lose it, I am the one that renegotiates that relationship and whether it exists or not after that phone call. I am the one. So she started screaming as if she was going to fall off a 50 story building, and I had never heard that before. So for the first time I went to my boss and I said I think we follow up with her just to make sure she was still there, and I've never felt that before. Please look in to this. The other thing is immigration, it is a very big issue in this area. Framingham is the only town in the entire northeast part of the United States that takes part in the **287 G program**. I am very worried about that. The local police, and there are two of them in that specific program. I am concerned about it I don't want women to be separated from their children. You know I am Jewish and I don't really believe in a Gestapo and I want you to look into that. I don't want that to happen again in the state. I would hope we could end the 287 G program under this government. I am very concerned about what happens to women when people are rounded up. They are abused, I am from NJ there is a very famous case of a woman who was put into a detention center for a very long time, a legal immigrant and was abuse and other things. A horrible situation. I would like you to look into those detention centers in Massachusetts and what goes on in those centers, I want that made public.

DeFranco: I wanted to elaborate just a bit. The State has taken a position on the 287 G program, I understand that the police are deputized as immigration officials. So you say its just two people. And has anybody engaged...who made this decision? The police chief?

Kaye: I don't know that. I could only find out what they told me.

DeFranco: You are a town member?

Kaye: I didn't get that because I am a town meeting member, I go because I am politically active.

DeFranco: Is this something that you are going to have the council work with to?

Kaye: I am not privy to those relationships.

McCrea: You talked about small business, do you work with the **small business administration** at all. They used to have a woman...

Kaye: I used to be a SBA employee, I was an underwriter reporter.

McCrea: They used to have a women's program, in the 70s. Did they cut that...?

Kaye: I am not sure of that, I haven't been with the SBA in a long time. I guess after the last 8 years I would bet my house on it, if I had one. They actually cut not only that program but every other program enormously over the last eight years. The SBA specifically, one of the reason more leans happens, while I was with the SBA we dealt with 20 disasters at one time and they couldn't deal with because they cut the staff so much and the experienced staff.

Greer: Any more testifiers? I am going to read some of the testimony submitted.

Written testimony was submitted and entered into record.

Adjourn

7:03pm