



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

DIVERSITY AFFAIRS AND INCLUSIVENESS COMMITTEE

PORTAGE COUNTY ANNEX
CONFERENCE ROOMS 1 & 2
1462 STRONGS AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

Thursday, November 10, 2022

5:00 PM

REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial 1-608-338-1399, after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter in a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 329 505 365, then press #

To attend this meeting by video: [Click Here To Join Meeting](#)

Due to COVID-19 and the potential risk to members of the public who attend meetings in-person, any person who plans to attend the meeting remotely, but wishes to comment on an agenda item can send their comments via email to falkr@co.portage.wi.us. The deadline for sending comments by email is 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Emailed comments will be delivered to committee members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Remote comment by the public during the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

The Diversity Affairs and Inclusiveness Committee meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

Members Present: Joan Honl, Vinnie Miresse, Andrew Rockman, Jennifer Bushman, Miguelgabriel Campos, Valari Hartmann, Dustin Moen

Attending In-Person: J. Honl, V. Miresse, A. Rockman, M. Campos, V. Hartmann, D. Moen

Attending Online: J. Bushman

Staff Attending: Robin Falk; Nathan Sandwick, UW-Extension; Dave Hickethier, Corporation Counsel; Denise Worzalla-Rocha, UW-Extension; Laura Bellanger-Tess, Director of Human Resources

Others Attending: Supervisor Haga, Supervisor Soik, Jack Elsinger, other members of the public

PUBLIC NOTICE

A motion was made by A. Rockman, seconded by M. Campos, to approve the minutes of the October 2022 meeting. Motion to carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 2022 Minutes

REPORTS

2.
 1. Chair
 2. Committee
 3. Staff

No reports.

CORRESPONDENCE

3. [What Are Counties?](#) Video

www.wicounties.org/what-are-counties/

4. [Roberts Rules](#) Video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGOSZKIS9_4

PRESENTATION

5. Presentation Committee-level actions, possible results. Nathan Sandwick, Community Development Educator, UW-Extension

Presentation by N. Sandwick

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

6. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Regarding Special Meeting Attendance (Portage County Ordinance 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)
- Request for special meeting attendance
 - Approval of attendance of special meetings
 - Special meeting attendance reports

V. Miresse requested permission to attend WCA Regional Diversity and Inclusion Group Zoom meetings November 17th and December 12th. A motion was made by A. Rockman, seconded by J. Bushman, to . Motion to carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

7. Follow-up from October 2022 meeting- options for contacting potential evictees with financial resource information. Request for opinion and tenant/landlord eviction resources

Opinion from Deputy Corporation Counsel D. Hickethier in response to the Committee's request at the October meeting: "The Diversity Committee is requesting a legal opinion from Corporation Counsel on the legality of the Clerk of Courts reaching out to an evictee with financial resource information". Response is that the Clerk of Courts' job duties as delineated by State Statute do not include intervening, becoming involved in, nor providing information in evictions or lawsuits. Discussion also included noting that not all evictions are for failure to pay rent, nor through court cases.

Discussion regarding 211 services and promotion. D. Worzalla-Rocha, UW-Extension, volunteered to gather additional information on 211 services for the committee.

8. Readiness Assessment Tools/Survey

Brief discussion of definition of "Readiness Assessment". General consensus to revisit topic at a later date, after the committee has a clearer understanding of direction.

9. Committee Vision and Scope Exercise

1. How committee operates within County government
2. Vision/ ideas of how committee functions

Goal development exercise, led by N. Sandwick.

Informal, non-binding results:

Preliminary consensus on 3 initial goal ideas (2 distinct areas), as follows:

- Information sharing: 1-stop-shop by the end of Q1 for information about resources and assistance available (finance, housing, mental health...)
- Examine health inequity further.
- Health equity: how it affects people's lives, how Portage County policies affect health equity, and what recommendations this committee can make to effect better policy.

Other initial goal ideas were met with preliminary disagreement expressed by one or more committee members:

- Further develop our connections with community stakeholders
- Continue to gather data on health outcomes in Portage County
- Establish one actionable item at each meeting
- Make a website, flyers
- Work on overdose issue
- Evaluate Portage County policy to ensure inclusiveness
- Promote access to 211

- EDI Professional Staff: Someone to drive conversation and make relevant recommendations

10. Committee Goal Setting/ Benchmarking

A motion was made by V. Miresse, seconded by A. Rockman, to place item 10 on next month's agenda.

NEXT MEETING DATE

December 8th at 5:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:55PM

Notice: Any person who has special needs and plans on attending this meeting in-person or remotely should contact the Facilities Office at 715-346-1598 as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Notice: A quorum of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, or any committee thereof, may be present at this meeting.