

## Vermont Commission on Women

### Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2015

Pavilion Office Building, 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room

Montpelier, VT

#### Commissioners present:

Marcia Merrill (Chair),  
Eileen Boland, Carol Buchdahl,  
Danielle Martel, Melinda Moulton,  
Ruth Finn, Dr. Felicia Kornbluh,  
Laine Dunham, Susie Hudson,  
Kerry Secrest, Gretchen Bailey,  
Shambulia Gadsden Sams (via conference call)

#### Commissioners absent:

Nancy LaVarnway, Charlotte Dennett,  
Lynn Batchelor, Jennie Gartner

**Staff:** Cary Brown, Lilly Talbert

**Presiding:** Marcia Merrill

**Recording:** Claire Greene

**Interns:** Rebecca White (via conference call)

**Advisors:** Dolly Fleming representing Mercy Connections (via conference call)

**Guests:** Juliet Dowling, Legislative Liaison for Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform

**Welcome/Introductions:** Marcia welcomed everyone.

#### **Approval of February 2015 minutes**

Motion to approve these minutes as submitted

Motion made by Carol Buchdahl, seconded by Felicia Kornbluh

**MOTION APPROVED**

#### **Legislative Update**

*Dentist Practitioner Bill: H.1/S.20*

*Criminal Justice Reform Bill: S.221*

*Earned time off/ healthy workplaces: H.187/S.15*

*S.60 Reduction of cost associated with medical examinations for victims of sexual assault*

*H.105 Disclosure of sexually explicit images without consent*

#### **Staff Update**

- Elimination of VCW funding is on a list of ideas posted by the House Appropriations committee (created in collaboration from suggestions made by the administration, both house and senate members, and input from outside organizations and individuals)

- Public hearing before House Appropriations tomorrow from 1-3 to talk about this list. Cary is signed up to testify .

### **Women in Corrections**

Juliet Dowling from Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform presented information on the House bill 221, an act relating to criminal justice reform. This bill, in part, is follow-up from the Vermont Summit on Women in Corrections that the commission co-hosted last fall. The bill has been introduced in the house by Representative Mollie Burke.

Focus of the bill two fold:

1. *To reduce the present sitting population*
2. *To reduce the population that is coming in*

### **Announcements:**

- Cary circulated a copy of the partnership via email to commissioners on how the change the story committee will function. This document will likely be finalized at the next meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The appeal of the Silloway case has been filed
- Representative Anne O'Brien put forth a bill addressing gender equality on Vermont boards and commissions.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44am