

State of Vermont
Vermont Commission on Women
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Vermont Commission on Women Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 21, 2023, | 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Remote meeting

Commissioners present:

Lisa Senecal (Co-chair), Kellie Campbell, Brenda Churchill, Alex Hilliard, Nancy Kaplan, Sarah Mell, Ashley Messier, Sophia Rabe, and Heidi Tringe.

Commissioners absent:

Hazel Brewster, Esther Charlestin, Wendy Knight, Sarah Lang, Annie Mackin, and Kiah Morris.

Advisors present:

Logan Snow, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Abbie Stevenson, Mercy Connections

Guests:

Staff: Cary Brown, Karen Cygnarowicz, Ellie Lane
Presiding: Lisa Senecal
Recording: Ellie Lane

1. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:04 am.

2. Approval of meeting minutes of June 9, 2023

Motion made by Sarah, seconded by Kellie to approve the June 9, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Unanimously approved, minutes approved.

3. Transgender Policy

Karen shared an updated draft with the group.

The Vermont Commission on Women believes in and celebrates transgender joy and the right for all transgender individuals to thrive.

VCW supports legislation, policies, programs, and initiatives that facilitate equitable treatment of transgender individuals of all ages, and that work to eliminate violence, discrimination, harassment, and bullying, and the stigmatization of transgender individuals regardless of age and across all settings.

VCW supports equitable and accessible legal and restorative options for transgender victims of crimes, discrimination, and harassment.

VCW believes everyone should have access to gender-affirming healthcare.

Alex expressed support for the new language.

Logan of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England also expressed positive feedback about the language.

Kellie thanked the committee for their work. Asked a question to the staff, wondering if we have other policy support for the broader LGBTQ+ community and wondered if we need broader language wrapped around this.

Cary offered that we don't have that kind of statement and that would be good to offer.

Ashley supports the updated language.

Motion made by Brenda to adopt the updated language as presented this morning:

The Vermont Commission on Women believes in and celebrates transgender joy and the right for all transgender individuals to thrive.

VCW supports legislation, policies, programs, and initiatives that facilitate equitable treatment of transgender individuals of all ages, and that work to eliminate violence, discrimination, harassment, and bullying, and the stigmatization of transgender individuals regardless of age and across all settings.

VCW supports equitable and accessible legal and restorative options for transgender victims of crimes, discrimination, and harassment.

VCW believes everyone should have access to gender-affirming healthcare.

Alex Seconded.

Unanimously approved, policy adopted.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:21 am.