

Commissioners Present: Marcia Merrill, Chair; Laine Akiyama; Gretchen Bailey; Eileen Boland; Carol Buchdahl; Mary Claire Carroll; Retta Dunlap; Ruth Finn; Linda Fogg; Anne McLaughry; and Vicky Young.

Commissioners Absent: Sharon Baade, Cary Brown, Cathy Frey, Karen Henry, and Marion Milne.

Advisory Council Members Present: Joanna Cole representing the League of Women Voters, Lindy Hatcher representing Vermont Federation of Business and Professional Women, Linda Ingold representing Vermont Women's Business Center, Margaret Luce representing Vermont State Nurses' Association, Louise Luring representing American Association of University Women; Jayne Sheridan representing Vermont Works for Women, Carol Story representing Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains,

Staff: Janet Bullard, Judith Irving; Wendy Love; and Lilly Talbert.

Presiding: Marcia Merrill

Recording: Janet Bullard

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m.

Minutes

Motion made by Mary Claire Carroll to amend the minutes as follows: Page 1, 2nd paragraph entitled, "Upcoming Issues: Paid Sick Days" – 2nd sentence, delete **re** at the beginning of the sentence. Seconded by Ruth Finn and voted unanimously.

Updates – Bullying and Harassment Study committee

Eileen Boland reported that she and Wendy served on a legislative summer study committee. Eileen distributed copies of the Table of Contents from the draft report. The final report should be ready for release shortly.

Eileen reviewed the highlights of the draft report. A key finding was that students could be powerful spokespersons in setting the school climate. The committee focused on a "World of Difference curriculum from the Anti-Defamation League as a model curriculum for schools to use.

Updates – Burton Snowboard discussion

Anne McLaughry, Chair of the ad hoc task force reviewing the Burton snowboard discussion, reported that the task force met via phone in November and after much discussion decided that they needed more discussion before making recommendations to the full Commission.

But, the task force agreed that it might be productive to talk with Donna Carpenter, co-owner of Burton about ways we could move forward constructively to improve young

women's self images. Wendy is also going to convene a group of interested parties (Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Planned Parenthood, Spectrum, etc) to design a one page ALERT to parents to help them with age-appropriate ways to talk to their children when they or their children confront imagery that they (the parents) find offensive or inappropriate such as the love or primo boards or tee shirts, or magazines, or Victoria's secret catalog. The goal is to have something that could be easily reproduced that organizations could distribute to their email lists or put on websites. A second sheet could be directed towards teens, peer-to-peer idea, with catchy phrases that teens (female and male) might use if confronted by images that they don't like or make them feel uncomfortable, and how they can talk to their peers about their feelings.

After discussion, it was decided by informal consensus that the task force should go ahead with their work as reported. Anne asked that anyone with ideas or comments to please get them to her as soon as possible. She also asked if anyone else wanted to join in on the discussion. Vicky, Retta, and Joanna all joined the task force.

Luncheon Logistics

Laine Akiyama, Chair of the legislative luncheon committee, gave an overview of the luncheon including our theme, "we are all pieces of the puzzle" and gave kudos to the staff for their work on the luncheon. Janet reviewed the luncheon logistics, registration, nametags, and seating. Wendy distributed talking points to help commissioners and advisors with luncheon conversation and Carol gave an overview of the quiz that will be given at the luncheon with the goal of having the legislators answer the questions correctly and receive a puzzle piece to then be put together by the legislators with the message, "Strong Women, Strong Families, Strong Communities, Strong Economy".

Status Report Discussion

Folk were asked to share their thoughts/insights/likes/dislikes about this year's status report. Many, many kudos were given to Lilly and Wendy for their hard work with this year's status report and also to Surbhi Godsay, Lilly's intern, who did a lot of the original research for the status report. The Committee chairs then gave an overview of their sections of the status report. From this a discussion ensued about what issues/areas of interest that we might want to explore for inclusion in next year's status report.

Update on the History Project

Judith Irving, Director of the project, reported that a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between the VCW, VCWERF and the Vermont Historical Society for VHS to "adopt" the History Project next January 2010. We need to raise \$12,000 by June 30, 2009 to allow the project to continue through December and to show the VHS that it is a "fundable" project. The MOU does not guarantee anything but it outlines a process.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.