

Commissioners Present: Marcia Merrill, Chair; Gretchen Bailey, Eileen Boland, Cary Brown, Carol Buchdahl, Laine Dunham, Ruth Finn, Anne McClaughry, Shambulia Gadsden-Sams

Commissioners Absent: Ann Cardinal, Cathy Frey, Karen Henry, Susie Hudson, Jennie Gartner, Peg Martin, Marion Milne

Advisors Present: Margaret Luce representing Vermont State Nurses Association

Staff: Janet Bullard, Wendy Love, and Lilly Talbert

Presiding: Marcia Merrill

Recording: Lilly Talbert

Meeting called to order at 9:35 a.m.

Introductions/Minutes:

Round table introductions made. Motion made by Eileen Boland to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2011 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Seconded by Anne McClaughry. Voted unanimously.

Practice Being a Good Commissioner:

Carol Buchdahl and Laine Dunham lead the group in an exercise in how to bring the work of the Commission into everyday situations. Various scenarios were posed to the panel: example: chatting with checkout staff at the grocery store. The goal is to inspire and get comfortable with talking about the Commission and our work and publications.

The group thought having a supply of VCW business cards with the telephone numbers on each would be helpful. Lilly Talbert will print and bring to a future meeting.

Projects Update:

Wendy Love and Lilly Talbert spoke about *The Legal Rights of Women in Vermont* and handed out rack card samples. They thanked Gretchen Bailey, who completed a full edit of the document. They hope to launch the finished project in December in time for the Women's Economic Opportunity Conference.

Carol Buchdahl spoke about her plans for a women's issues evening with Karen Henry. She will report back to the group about the event's format and the outcome so that others might replicate.

The group discussed listening forum plans at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in South Burlington. Concerns included keeping incarcerated mothers connected to their children, the quality of the community high school programs, availability of job training programs, allowing time for staff to "settle in." The group would like to get preliminary answers to questions from a panel discussion. Participants might be Jill Evans, Jess Kell, Tiffany Blumle, Julie Brill. This panel discussion would take place in December 14th. The listening forum would take place in January 11th. The group decided to cancel November's meeting.

Lilly Talbert announced that book donations for inmates would be welcome at the January forum.

Marcia Merrill requested that Commissioners and Advisors think of possibilities for future listening forums – venues, partners, and topics.

Women Can Do! 2011 Conference:

Janet welcomed all and thanked them for volunteering. She provided a brief orientation to the event.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35.