

Commissioners Present: Marcia Merrill - *Chair*, Cary Brown, Carol Buchdahl, Charlotte Dennett, Laine Dunham, Shambulia Gadsden Sams, Dr. Felicia Kornbluh, Anne McClaughry; Margaret Martin and Gretchen Bailey by phone

Commissioners Absent: Eileen Boland, Ruth Finn, Cathy Frey, Susie Hudson, Marion Milne, Jennie Gartner

Advisors Present: Kim Bina, Business and Professional Women, Margaret Luce representing Vermont State Nurses Association

Guests: Deborah A. Dutcher RN BSN, Maternal Child Health Coordinator, Vermont Department of Health, Bennington, Cheryl Hanna JD, Professor of Law, Vermont Law School

Staff: Lilly Talbert

Presiding: Marcia Merrill

Recording: Lilly Talbert

Meeting called to order at 10 a.m.

Staff Projects Update

Lilly provided highlights of staff projects, including: pay equity initiatives resulting from the EEOC / AG Equal Pay Conference, Victim Rights Committee, WIC 10 Steps Breastfeeding trainings, VCW Information and Referral Program, VCW's Resource Guide and Website, Domestic Violence Council, Governor's Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force, Women in Corrections, VCW Participation at Women's Economic Opportunity Conference and Women Can Do, and The Legal Rights of Women in Vermont.

Amicus Brief Discussion

Marcia provided an introduction to the topic. VCW was approached by Professor Cheryl Hanna to be the lead Amici in a case involving the Equal Pay Act. Marcia explained what the brief does: it's an argument that goes before the court about interpretations of the law, not about the specifics of an individual case. Marcia spoke about the importance of this: it will set the precedent about how the Equal Pay legislation is interpreted. Marcia clarified that the Commission needs to determine if we'll go forward with this process soon, as there are court filing deadlines looming. Professor Cheryl Hanna joined the meeting via conference call. She explained that VCW would be the ideal lead because of our mission and our lead role in passing Equal Pay Act. The goal of the brief is to set a legal standard that will best serve the Equal Pay statute. Professor Hanna proceeded with more detail about the Equal Pay Act and the brief, and addressed Commissioner's questions. Carol Buchdahl made the motion for the VCW to become the lead Amici, Lane Dunham seconded. Marcia called the vote, it passed unanimously.

Introductions/Minutes

Marcia welcomed new Commissioner, Charlotte Dennett. Kim Bina our new Advisor from Business and Professional Women introduced herself as well. Marcia informed us of the reappointments of Commissioners Marion Milne and Anne McClaughry and that the Commission is now up to capacity with 16 commissioners. Debby Dutcher Bennington County Maternal Child Coalition provided an introduction to her work and the work of the coalition.

Motion made by Laine Dunham and seconded, by Carol Buchdahl to approve the minutes of the June 2012 Commission meeting as submitted. The Commission voted to approve with one abstention.

Laine provided an overview of the listening forum. Charlotte Dennett spoke about the link with the possible topics of this forum and domestic initiatives re: UN Resolution 1325 on Peace and Security listening forums taking place around the country.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.