

Talbert, Lilly

Subject: FW: VCW VIEW: October 3rd

VCW Welcomes New Commissioner Kerry Secrest of Brattleboro

Governor Peter Shumlin has appointed Kerry Secrest of Brattleboro to serve on the Vermont Commission on Women (VCW).

Commissioner Secrest is a leadership coach for individuals and organizations through Watershed Coaching, her Brattleboro-based firm focusing on executive coaching, women's leadership, team coaching, and leadership training.

Commissioner Secrest leads trainings in the areas of team-building, women's leadership, understanding multigenerational work environments, change management, strategic planning, conflict resolution, and leadership development. Her clients include national and international firms, both commercial and non-governmental organizations, as well as Vermont-based companies.

Commissioner Secrest founded and directs the Women's Leadership Circles of Vermont program, a six-month intensive leadership engagement for groups of women in leadership who live or work in a particular county in Vermont. The program, now offered through Marlboro College's Graduate and Professional Studies, is designed to enhance personal and professional leadership in order for participants to be more effective and fulfilled at work, leading companies and organizations to achieve greater impact locally and regionally.

"The work Kerry has been doing on behalf of women leaders in Vermont is exceptional, and I am excited that she will bring her energy and enthusiasm to the Vermont Commission on Women," said Governor Shumlin.

"I am honored to be appointed. I stand for a community where women's voices are an integral and valued part of the public conversation, where women have equal opportunity, and equal pay for equal work," Secrest stated. "I look forward to working with the Commission on these and other important issues."

Before moving to Vermont in 2003 Commissioner Secrest served as a program director with the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C., and worked as director of a \$3 million dollar program at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Prior to those positions and drawing on her Lithuanian-American heritage and experience living two years in Soviet-occupied Lithuania, she served as Advisor for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of Lithuania as part of the country's first diplomatic mission following independence. She is a dual citizen and now works to promote economic opportunity and cultural ties as the Honorary Consul of Lithuania to Vermont.

Commissioner Secrest has a master's degree in International & Intercultural Relations with a focus on human resource development from the SIT Graduate Institute, and received her undergraduate degree from Villanova University. She is certified as an Integral Coach through New Ventures West and in mediation through the Center for Dispute Settlement in Washington, DC. She believes that life is an adventure and has organized her own unguided trips rafting north of the Arctic Circle and backpacking for a month in Siberia. To date, her most profound adventure has been parenthood, with two school-aged daughters.

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Successful Reentry for Women in Corrections

Wednesday, October 8th, 5:30 – 7 PM

Council Chambers, St. Albans City Hall

St. Albans native Danielle Martel serves on the state's Vermont Commission on Women (VCW). She's put together a community panel titled, "Successful Reentry for Women in Corrections". The panel will take place Wednesday evening, October 8th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at St. Albans City Hall. This event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Vermont Commission on Women (VCW). Join with others to learn from and share thoughts with those providing support to local women building better lives and better relationships with family, children and the Saint Albans community as a whole. Panel moderator will be St. Albans Mayor Elizabeth Gamache. Panelists will include:

Cathy Ainsworth, *Vermont Women's Mentoring Program, Mercy Connections*

Scott Bork, *Chief Operating Officer and Director of Patient Care Services, Northwestern Medical Center*

Tiffany Bluemle, *Executive Director, Vermont Works for Women*

Sherry Caforia, *District Manager, Department of Corrections*

Julian Desnoyer, *Northwestern Counseling and Support Services*

Danielle Lindley, *Director, Family Center of Northwestern Vermont*

Kris Lukens, *Director, Voices Against Violence/Laurie's House*

Candace Lewis, *Coordinator of Academic Services, Community College of Vermont, St. Albans*

Sheila Perrotte, *St. Albans Branch Manager, Westaff*

For more information please contact VCW's [Claire Greene](#) @ 802-828-2852.

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Registration Now Open for The Unfinished Agenda: New England Women's Policy Conference

Friday, November 7th, 9 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston, Mass

[Registration link](#) / [Conference website](#) / [Conference program](#)

This day-long conference in Boston is collaboration between the Vermont Commission on Women and partners from all six New England states, convening a diverse cross-section of stakeholders to chart a regional policy agenda.

The theme of the 2014 conference is "Ensuring Economic Security for All Women and Their Families." The conference will provide participants with research and information on the status of women in New England and the issues that continue to challenge them and their families. Most importantly, conference attendees will engage in an active dialogue to set policy benchmarks about where we are now and set policy goals for the future.

Keynote speaker is economist, author, and CNN commentator [Dr. Julianne Malveaux](#), president and founder of Economic Education. Vermont will be well represented in the presenters, including Rep. Sarah Buxton (D-Windsor-Orange-1), Lindsay DesLauriers of Main Street Alliance Vermont, and VCW's [Cary Brown](#).

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Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) Releases Summary of Key Opportunities in Workforce Innovation and

Opportunity Act (WIOA)

In July 2014, the WIOA—passed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress—was signed into law by President Obama. WIOA is the first update to the nation’s core workforce training programs in the 16 years since passage of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). A new WIOA summary from the Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success at CLASP details provisions that strengthen existing workforce development and adult education programs in four primary ways that can benefit adults and youth with barriers to economic success. [Read CLASP'S WIOA summary here.](#)

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Breastfeeding Friendly Employers

Vermont’s Breastfeeding Friendly Employers should consider applying for the 2014 Worksite Wellness Award from the Vermont Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Employers are recognized during the Worksite Wellness conference each year (next one: 3/25/15) and it would be wonderful to see some of those employers receive recognition for their outstanding family friendly workplace policies. Learn about and apply for the award [here](#). Award questions, please contact [Natalie Schubel](#) or call 802-859-5916. Learn more about Vermont’s Breastfeeding Friendly Employer project [here](#). Read VCW’s publication about new moms returning to the workplace [here](#).

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Statewide Summit On Women In Corrections: The Incarcerated Women’s Initiative, Then And Now

175 enthusiastic participants attended this conference this past Tuesday. The event re-examined the Incarcerated Women’s Initiative (IWI), developed in 2005 by the Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) to address the growing number of women in prison and minimize the impact on inmates’ children, families and communities. Summit participants discussed issues still facing women in corrections today, and proposed new ideas and policy recommendations to improve conditions and services. Both Vermont Public Radio’s Vermont Edition and the Valley News covered elements of the conference. Vermont Public Radio Vermont Edition program link: [The Lives Of Women In Prison](#). Valley News link (link accessible to subscribers only): [Advocates Seek Improvements for Incarcerated Women](#).

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Department for Children and Families (DCF) Review Released

Agency of Human Services Secretary Chen and DCF Commissioner Schatz released their report to Governor Shumlin on recommended steps to strengthen DCF’s operations and structure. The recommendations include requests for hiring more staff, improving training, and addressing collaboration and transparency issues at DCF and amongst their partners.

[Click here](#) for the press release that summarizes the report’s recommendations.

[Click here](#) for the full report (which at 15 pages is a relatively easy read) and all the supporting materials.

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Include! An online k-12 curriculum promoting inclusion in schools

Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council launches this educational tool for Vermont schools to use free

of charge this month. The purpose of Include! is to bring disability pride to students with and without disabilities. The goal is to inspire students of all ages to promote principles of equality, dignity and respect for all in their classrooms, homes and communities. Learn more at the Include! launch event Tuesday, October 21st at 10 AM in the Cedar Creek Room of the Vermont State House. More information, [Peter Kriff](#), Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council's Executive Director, 802.233.4908.

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SafeArt in Chelsea

In their fall newsletter a new staffer described Safe Art's work, "...SafeArt is just that. It does not use medical model assessment and treatment to fix people. Tracy guides us to focus on the healing power of art and strengthen connections that already unite us. SafeArt trusts the framework of human creativity." SafeArt offers individual and group healing sessions, unique performances, creative workshops and residencies, and leadership training all designed to educate, to inspire and to heal people and their communities. Learn more [here](#), (802) 685-3138 or info@safeArt.com.

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Vermont Works for Women: Rosie's Girls on TODAY Show / Women Can Do!

TODAY Show correspondent Maria Shriver read about Rosie's Girls STEM & Trades program in The New York Times and decided to check it out! View it [here](#).

Women Can Do is Thursday, Oct. 16th. Young women from high schools across the state will converge on Vermont Tech in Randolph for a "roll up your sleeves" career exposure experience about the skilled trades and STEM fields. Click [here](#) for more info.

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Commentary by former Gov. Madeleine Kunin

[Madeleine Kunin: Single parents want to be good parents](#)

Let's stop decrying family structure and begin focusing on good parenting.

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Applause & Cheers To Washington County's Sexual Assault Crisis Team For International Recognition Of Best Practices

The European Parliament's Policy Department on Citizen's Rights and Constitutional Affairs commissioned a study to look at worldwide best practices for rape prevention and for assisting women victims of rape. Vermont's own Sexual Assault Crisis Team was highlighted as an example of best practice in provision of these services in the study. Among the many aspects of programming cited, SACT was considered a best practice case study for these reasons:

- Evidence shows that safe and secure shelter in the aftermath of a rape is essential for victim-survivors. SACT addresses this need by providing shelter which is specifically designed to meet the needs of victim-survivors of rape and sexual assault;
- SACT was developed and established to respond to identified unmet need for specialist residential shelter for victim-survivors of rape and sexual assault;

- SACT is collaborative, working with the local domestic violence shelter and draws on the knowledge and expertise of its outreach arm;
- SACT is multifunction providing safe shelter for victim/survivors but also providing access to a comprehensive range of education, training and support programs designed to enable residents to identify, work toward, and achieve goals in order to move on from the shelter accommodation; and
- SACT utilizes its expert knowledge in working with victim-survivors of rape and sexual assault in order to establish and run the residential shelter in such a way which specifically identifies and addresses the needs of victim-survivors of sexual violence.

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Vermont Commission on Women (VCW)

VIEW Message – Vermont Information Exchange for Women

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