

Vermont Commission on Women

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2014

Via Conference Call, with public access at 126 State St, Montpelier VT

Commissioners present:

Marcia Merrill (Chair), Carol Buchdahl
Eileen Boland, Gretchen Bailey,
Laine Dunham, Melinda Moulton
Ruth Finn, Kerry Secrest, Charlotte Dennett
Nancy LaVarnway, Susie Hudson
Lynn Batchelor, Dr. Felicia Kornbluh,
Shambulia Gadsden Sams, Danielle Martel
Jennie Gartner

Commissioners absent:

None

Staff: Cary Brown, Lilly Talbert, Claire Greene

Presiding: Marcia Merrill **Recording:** Claire Greene

Motion to accept amended December meeting agenda:

MOTION made by Melinda Moulton, seconded by Carol Buchdahl

Roll Call Vote

Marcia Merrill: yes
Carol Buchdahl: yes
Eileen Boland: yes
Gretchen Bailey: yes
Laine Dunham: yes
Melinda Moulton: yes
Ruth Finn: yes
Kerry Secrest: yes

Charlotte Dennett: yes
Nancy LaVarnway: yes
Susie Hudson: yes
Lynn Batchelor: yes
Dr. Felicia Kornbluh: yes
Shambulia Gadsden Sams: yes
Danielle Martel: yes
Jennie Gartner: absent

Motion to accept the agenda:

MOTION APPROVED

Approval of November 2014 minutes

MOTION made by Carol Buchdahl, seconded by Melinda Moulton

Roll Call Vote:

Marcia Merrill: yes
Carol Buchdahl: yes
Eileen Boland: yes
Gretchen Bailey: yes
Laine Dunham: yes
Melinda Moulton: yes
Ruth Finn: yes
Kerry Secrest: yes

Charlotte Dennett: yes
Nancy LaVarnway: yes
Susie Hudson: yes
Lynn Batchelor: yes
Dr. Felicia Kornbluh: yes
Shambulia Gadsden Sams: yes
Danielle Martel: yes
Jennie Gartner: absent

To approve the minutes as submitted:

MOTION APPROVED

Advisory Council Additions

Approval of Advisory Council Additions (to add Vermont Women's Fund, Mercy Connections, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Girls on the Run Vermont, Vermont Women in Higher Education, and Women Business Owners' Network)

MOTION made by Eileen Boland, seconded by Ruth Finn:

Roll Call Vote:

Marcia Merrill: absent	Charlotte Dennett: yes
Carol Buchdahl: yes	Nancy LaVarnway: yes
Eileen Boland: yes	Susie Hudson: no
Gretchen Bailey: yes	Lynn Batchelor: yes
Laine Dunham: yes	Dr. Felicia Kornbluh: yes
Melinda Moulton: yes	Shambulia Gadsden Sams: yes
Ruth Finn: yes	Danielle Martel: yes
Kerry Secrest: yes	Jennie Gartner: absent

To add the new members (listed above) to the Advisory Council:

MOTION APPROVED

Staff/Events Updates

VCW Mental Health working group

Several members of the Mental Health working group (Melinda, Charlotte, Kim, and Lynn) met for about a half hour recently. Advisory Council member Kimberly Swartz and guest Sally Kirschner, both of the Vermont Department of Health's Division of Maternal and Child Health were also present on the call. Melinda, who spearheads the group, gave a brief overview of the meeting. Notes from the meeting will be sent out to the entire commission this week. All are welcome to join the conversation at any point— the ad hoc working group will be meeting bi-monthly.

VCW Budget Rescissions

Cary recapped the three FY2016 budget plans submitted to the Department of Finance and Management at the beginning of October:

- Proposal # 1: FY2015 rescission level- funded with a 5% decrease
- Proposal # 2: FY2015 rescission level-funded
- Proposal # 3: FY2015 level-funded

Last month, the Commission was directed to reduce an additional \$5,402 from its budget to meet the statewide FY2015 Spending Reduction plan target. The commission did so by removing funds from printing, binding and postage. Final FY2016 budget targets will be issued by the Department of Finance and Management in mid to late December.

Rutland High School Meeting Recap – November 12, 2014

- Overall, the discussion with the students exceeded expectations.
- Fairly heterogeneous group of students
- Broke into groups discusses each of the 5 priority areas of the commission
- Varying answers and responses
- Surprised by some of the opinions of the young men, felt hopeful for this future generation.
- Financial literacy came up frequently
- Technical/academic divide— need to better sync technology and education
- Students spoke highly of the tech center and the career choices it exposed
- Teachers were pleased with the students engagement and students were glad to have folks from the outside seeking their advice.
- Commissioners would like to connect with this generation more

2015 Legislative Luncheon

The legislative luncheon, on January 15th, is fast approaching. Claire is finishing up a spreadsheet that will assign each commissioner to 10-11 members of the legislature to call. Commissioners requested that senators and representatives who already RSVP'd and email addresses be noted on the call list.

Melinda and Main Street landing have generously donated \$1,000 to the Vermont Commission on Women Educational and Research Foundation to help defray the costs of the event, but more funding is needed. Commissioners are encouraged to pay for themselves and one guest, or approximately \$50, or whatever they feel is appropriate, but should not feel that they are required to. All commissioners are welcome and encouraged to attend, regardless of their financial contribution.

Claire will send out a doodle for the next committee meeting (to be scheduled before the holidays) by the end of the week.

Change the Story Coalition

Cary, Lilly, Claire and Eileen attended the first meeting of the cabinet and updated the commissioners.

Next step: another meeting in January to clarify a decision making process, how we are going to communicate and operate, and planning what the work will be done. The agenda for January's VCW meeting will include time for commissioner input and feedback on the initiative.

Announcements

- Gretchen is retiring this month and then heading south for January and February. She will be in attendance at the March, April and May meetings. Katarina Lisaius, outreach staff at the office of Senator Bernie Sanders, will become the new Advisory Council representative.
- Felicia is the new president-elect of United Academics, one of the largest unions in the state chapter of the American Federation of Teachers (800 total in the bargaining unit). The position starts next July. Felicia hopes to build more of a unity between women and the labor movement.
- The Governor's Council on Pathways from Poverty recently submitted recommendations to the governor. Cary will send a link to the commissioners.
- Kerry announced that applications for the Women's Leadership Circle of Chittenden County close next Monday. This is dynamic group that is interested in women from all sectors.

Motion made to approve the meeting's adjournment:

Roll Call Vote:

Marcia Merrill: absent	Charlotte Dennett: yes
Carol Buchdahl: yes	Nancy LaVarnway: yes
Eileen Boland: yes	Susie Hudson: yes
Gretchen Bailey: yes	Lynn Batchelor: yes
Laine Dunham: yes	Dr. Felicia Kornbluh: yes
Melinda Moulton: yes	Shambulia Gadsden Sams: yes
Ruth Finn: yes	Danielle Martel: yes
Kerry Secrest: yes	Jennie Gartner: yes

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.