

Vermont Commission on Women

Meeting Minutes

June 10th, 2015

Pavilion Office Building, 4th floor conference room

Montpelier, VT

Commissioners present:

Marcia Merrill (Chair), Gretchen Bailey,
Carol Buchdahl, Eileen Boland,
Charlotte Dennett, Kerry Secrest
Ruth Finn, Laine Dunham,
Dr. Felicia Kornbluh

Commissioners absent:

Danielle Martel, Melinda Moulton,
Lynn Batchelor, Jennie Gartner,
Shambulia Gadsden Sams,
Susie Hudson, Nancy LaVarnway

Staff: Cary Brown, Claire Greene

Presiding: Marcia Merrill

Recording: Claire Greene

Advisors: Becky Raymond representing Building Bright Futures, Katarina Lisaius representing U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, Pam Greene representing Mercy Connections, Julie Scribner representing Vermont Women in Law Enforcement, Kaitie Armstrong representing Vermont Women in Law Enforcement, Rachel Jolly representing Vermont Works for Women, Anne Gallivan representing Evolve Rutland, Louise Luring representing American Association of University Women, Kim Bina representing Vermont Federation of Business and Professional Women, Christine Ryan representing Vermont State Nurses Association, Catherine Welch representing Vermont Women in Higher Education, Meagan Gallagher representing Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Kate Ash representing U.S. Senator Leahy's Office, Anne Burmeister representing Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Mary Thorne representing Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains

Guests: Emma Ottolenghi and Busi Kunene

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome/Introductions: Marcia welcomed everyone and asked those present to introduce themselves

Approval of April 2015 minutes

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted

Motion made by Carol Buchdahl, seconded by Felicia Kornbluh

MOTION APPROVED

Approval of May 2015 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted

Motion made by Kerry Secrest, seconded by Laine Dunham

MOTION APPROVED

Approval of VCW FY2016 Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve the schedule as submitted

Motion made by Eileen Boland, seconded by Gretchen Bailey

MOTION APPROVED

Biannual Election of VCW Chair

One standing nomination for Marcia Merrill

Motion made to re-elect Marcia Merrill

Carol Buchdahl made motion, seconded by Ruth Finn

MOTION APPROVED

Staff Updates

Commissioner Appointments

- Ruth Finn has been reappointed for another term by the Governor
- Shambulia Gadsden Sams' term is up this month and she will not seek reappointment. Recommendations for her open seat are welcome and can be emailed to Cary

VCW's Equal Pay Compact

- Approximately 20 organizations have signed on
- Status of commissioner and council member outreach:
 - Kaitie Armstrong: talked to local police departments in Middlebury and Vergennes area
 - Gretchen Bailey: spoke to the chair of Burlington City Council
 - Commissioners requested staff mail a packet of Equal Pay Compact materials to use when speaking to employers

Change the Story

- Lucy Comstock-Gay is no longer with VWW— Lindsey Lathrop-Ryan will be stepping in to take her place
- VWW will hire a paid intern this summer to work on the report on women's economic wellbeing in Vermont
- Researchers Joy Livingston and Mairi-Jane Fox will be working on the report
- Two meetings happened this month (on June 2nd in Rutland and on June 8th in Burlington) to gather recommendations on what the report ought to include.

New England Women's Policy Initiative

- An initiative that helps regional commissions –and their equivalents– in New England collaborate on legislative agendas
- NEWPI Conference last fall in Boston produced the *Call to Action* report, a policy framework addressing women's economic security issues
- VCW 2015 follow up events:
 - Women, Poverty & Justice Event (August) will focus on housing and homelessness
 - Women's Economic Security Summit (October 8th) in partnership with the Women's Legislative Caucus, will focus on legislative and policy approaches to women's economic security

VCW Statewide Calendar

- Will be housed on VCW website
- Will offer users the ability to both enter and search for event in your area

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.