

Vermont Commission on Women
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2014
Rutland High School Theater
Rutland, Vermont

Commissioners present:

Marcia Merrill (Chair),
Eileen Boland, Gretchen Bailey,
Laine Dunham, Melinda Moulton
Jennie Gartner, Ruth Finn
Kerry Secrest, Charlotte Dennett

Commissioners absent:

Nancy LaVarnway, Susie Hudson
Lynn Batchelor, Dr. Felicia Kornbluh,
Shambulia Gadsden Sams,
Danielle Martel, Carol Buchdahl

Staff: Cary Brown, Lilly Talbert, Claire Greene

Presiding: Marcia Merrill

Recording: Claire Greene

Guests: Kiki McShane, Co-Director, Women's Professional Development Center of Rutland

Welcome/Introductions: Marcia welcomed everyone and introduced our guest.

Approval of September 2014 minutes

Approval of October 2014 minutes

Approval of October 2014 special meeting minutes

Motion to approve these three minutes as submitted

Motion made by Melinda Moulton, seconded by Eileen Boland.

MOTION APPROVED

Advisory Council Additions

Cary recapped the amendments made to the Commission's operating guidelines. In December, commissioners will be asked to vote to approve the following additions to the Advisory Council:

- Mercy Connections
- Girls on the Run
- PPNNE
- Women Business Owners Network
- Vermont Women in Higher Education
- Vermont Women's Fund

Staff/Events Updates

Commissioners received a written staff update containing:

- 1) Updates on outreach and media
- 2) Recent information and referral service requests from the public
- 3) Current committees, coalitions and collaborations the Commission is a part of
- 4) Event and public appearances
- 5) Future calendar & items of note

Unfinished Agenda Highlights:

- Marcia, Melinda, Lilly, Claire and Cary attended.

- Lindsay DesLauriers of Main Street Alliance was a speaker on a panel for paid leave.
- Vermont Rep. Sarah Buxton was a panelist on policies for children and working parents.
- 25 Vermonters attended out of the approximately 400.
- First conference with all the regional commissioners (or equivalent)-- hope to have this every 2 years.
- Some issues focused on were: equal pay, paid leave, childcare, STEM careers, minimum wage, women in poverty, education, women in political leadership, older women's economic security.

The *Call to Action* policy proposal (created by the conference co-conveners) was passed around to those present. During the event, participants were asked to edit, amend, and add to this *Call to Action* framework. Once finalized, organizations from the conference will be asked to sign onto the agreement. Signing on to the framework signifies a commitment to working on one (or many) of the policy areas outlined. Cary is requesting commissioner feedback on this *Call to Action* framework sometime before the next meeting.

Silloway equal pay case:

Cary reviewed the Silloway case for those new to the Commission. This is a pay discrimination case brought against the state by three Department of Corrections female employees. The Commission filed an amicus brief, written by the late Cheryl Hanna, on behalf of the plaintiff. The judge ruled for the state in summary judgment.

Legislative Luncheon:

If anyone has sponsorship thoughts, pass them along to a member of the legislative luncheon committee (Melinda, Nancy, Felicia, Danielle, and Carol) or to staff. Cary will be sending out invitations to legislators this week but will be asking Commissioners to follow up with their representatives as the event gets closer. Claire will make and distribute a legislator call spreadsheet to commissioners.

Change the Story Partnership:

Cary thanked those who attended the special conference call meeting last week and briefly recapped the initiative. This will be an ongoing agreement for at least three years, but likely longer. The Vermont Women's fund will serve as the primary funder, the Commission will be spearheading the research, and Vermont Works for Women will be providing staff time.

Budget:

Last month Cary, Claire and Marcia met with Jim Reardon, the Commissioner of Finance and Management, to discuss VCW's initial budget request for FY2016. The Commission submitted three requests: FY2015 recession level funded (required), FY2015 recession level funded with a 5% decrease (required), and FY2015 level funded (supplemental). Final budget targets will be issued by the Department of Finance and Management in mid-December.

Other:

Commissioners expressed interest in discussing single payer healthcare this legislative session. Cary will carve out time in December's meeting for more discussion.

Executive Session:

Motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion staff performance evaluation:
Motion moved by Laine Dunham, seconded by Eileen Boland.

MOTION APPROVED

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.