



EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference

Commissioners present: Kellie Campbell, Nancy Brooks, Sarah Mell

Commissioners absent:

Advisors present: Jen Horowitz, Katie Salina, & Logan Booker of Let's Grow Kids, Lisa Townson of Vermont Women in Higher Education

Staff present: Hannah Lane

Presiding: Kellie Campbell

Recording: Hannah Lane

Called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Meeting minute approval

February & March Meeting Minutes

Kellie moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Sarah.

Hearing no nays, minutes approved unanimously.

Committee language discussion

We presented our modified language at our last VCW Meeting, and we had a good discussion. Cary shared a Google Doc with our new language with the Commission as a whole to allow them to offer comments; no one has done so.

Nancy wasn't present for this meeting and asked for a summary.

Ed brought up that since girls are overrepresented in higher education, girls have equal access and believed this statement implies that's not true.

Folks shared that girls are not represented in tech center enrollment. Our position statement is about all genders.

The word "access" might need to be changed.

Retention & the environment is a big part of the issue here.

There is a very dominant legal view of “equal access”, and so LGK has been talking about equitable access, which looks very different from “equal access”.

Aspiration is a white-dominant idea. It’s a very different way of thinking about it.

Recommendation to change the Education & Human Development Committee’s Charging Language

Moved by Nancy, seconded by Sarah.

To recommend that VCW amend the Education & Human Development Committee’s Charging Language on our website to:

Proposed Language:

VCW believes that women, girls, and their families must have equitable access to life-long educational opportunities and experiences, so that choices and success are determined not by gender, but by individual interest.”

Educational systems and learning spaces:

- Are free of gender bias, harassment, and bullying.
- Address individual barriers to accessing education and identify and enable personalized strategies to ensure equitable opportunity.
- Deliver curriculum representative of those with marginalized and racialized genders and identities.
- Are inclusive of all learner types, including those with special needs/disabilities.
- Invest in staff education, enrichment and support.

Women and girls have equitable opportunity, access and support to pursue:

- Education in desired fields of interest and choice.
- Workforce training and development throughout their lives.
- Education in non-traditional educational and learning spaces regardless of their personal or professional circumstance.
- Careers in fields that have not traditionally been encouraged for women.

Updates

Lisa shared that VWHE is hosting their conference this summer virtually, and their awards nomination period is open.

Jen reported that H.171, the child care bill, passed out of the house 146-1. The bill is in Senate Health & Welfare. A few changes were made in the House, and so they will be working with the Senate to make a few changes, but overall, they are really happy with it.

Kellie asked about the recent YMCA child care closure and wondered if you have any thoughts about how families get into new a program. It seems to rely on families having time to call program after program.

Community child care support agencies around the state do support families in finding child care. They offer great support for families. LGK has been partnering with childcare programs to develop Child Care Lynx, which will streamline many of these processes and offer live, up-to-date, availability. We have to structurally fix the State IT system so we can make these systems more effective.

There are complicated issues around regulations, water, etc., for child care & education setting that don't apply to a regular commercial or office space, and so that makes it more difficult to find space for child care programs.

Can VCW address some of these additional resources on our website? Jen has links to some of these support resources, she will share that. Hannah will offer that suggestion to Lilly.

Who's Who and What's What report, is being updated by Kaite.

Rhoni shared that VWW is currently offering Women Can Do virtually. They are pushing to get funding for reentry services for women leaving CRCF. There have been 13 deaths of women leaving the facility since January. Working to get Perkins 5 funding for women in tech centers. Summer camp is coming fast. They will be doing a hybrid model of interactive kits and hopefully in-person camps by the end of July.

Ruth Durkee at AOE could be a good person to talk to. The tech centers that have a higher concentration of females have gender-only programming.

What are the barriers, how can we drive recruitment?

Kellie asked that for the next meeting, people read through the Google Doc and start to pull out the themes, for example, mental health care.

Women & Gender Equity center will share the video from last evening's conversation with Ashley Messier. It went very well and was a good event.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.