

Vermont Commission on Women

Meeting minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Center for Achievement in Public Service, VT Department of Human Resources
32 College St, Montpelier VT

Commissioners present in person: Marcia Merrill (Chair), Ed Adrian, Carol Buchdahl, Lisa Carlson, Mary Daly, Ruth Finn, Lisa Ryan, Lisa Senecal, Heidi Tringe **By phone:** Deborah Bucknam, Kellie Campbell, Charlotte Dennett

Commissioners absent: Emilie Kornheiser, Kim Nolan, Marybeth Christie Redmond, Kerry Secrest

Advisors present in person: Amy Brady from Voices for Vermont's Children, Aly Johnson-Kurts from Change The Story VT, Sheila Reed from Office of Senator Sanders, Katherine Vose from Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Diane Derby from Senator Leahy's office, Karen Tronsgard-Scott from the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence **By phone:** Lisa Falcone from Mercy Connections

Staff: Cary Brown, Lilly Talbert, Hannah Lane

Presiding: Marcia Merrill

Recording: Lilly Talbert

Meeting called to order at 9:33 a.m.

1. Welcome and introductions

Marcia welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves by speaking about what draws them to the Commission's work.

Approval of amended agenda, sent 2/12/19 at 10:42

MOTION made by Carol, seconded by Lisa
MOTION APPROVED. Adopted as presented.

2. VOTE: Approve minutes of February 2019

MOTION made by Carol, seconded by Mary:
To approve the February 2019 minutes as submitted.
By roll call vote, all vote yes.
MOTION APPROVED. Adopted as presented.

3. Staff updates

Tuesday April 2nd will be our next business meeting, combined with Equal Pay Day, AND our legislative lunch. Our business meeting will be abbreviated. We'll be present for the Equal Pay Day resolution being read on the floor of the House, and then head to the Capitol Plaza for a brief meeting before the

lunch starts at noon. If the Governor can join us, he may sign the Equal Pay Day proclamation at the lunch. Those who've yet to RSVP will need follow up calls, Hannah will advise. Our event planning committee meets tomorrow.

Montpelier High School interns are observing legislative proceedings and providing short reports to Cary.

Since our last meeting, we've provided testimony on the following:

- Our budget – in both House and Senate Appropriations committees
- H. 107 paid family and medical leave
- An elections corrections bill, specifically on one aspect: identification of demographic data on candidate disclosure forms when filing for election
- Prop 5 - Declaration of rights; right to personal reproductive liberty

VCW has three standing committees, organized by policy area. Each commissioner must serve on a committee, and VCW's Chair appoints commissioners to serve as Committee Chairs. Advisory Council member organizations are encouraged to join committees, and members of the general public may serve as non-voting committee members. Committees are engaged in review and updates of VCW's public policy positions and often take on special projects. Marcia will speak by phone with each commissioner in the next month about Committee choice.

Carol is Chair of Health, Safety and Civil Rights; Kellie is Education and Human Development chair; Economic Equity and Security Chair needed

4. Discussion of women in corrections

The group discussed the recent visit by VCW commissioners and legislators to the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility.

5. Discussion of DCF practices

Amy Brady, the Policy Associate for Voices for Vermont's Children spoke about legislation creating an Office of the Child Advocate. Voices believes this is a structure to inform and rebuild public trust. Voices would like it in the Agency of Administration, but in current bill, H.215, it would be created by a contract with a nonprofit organization.

Judge Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge and Karen Vastine, DCF, spoke about the [CHINS Report Workgroup Report, December 1, 2018](#).

Goal was to look at system, make suggestions and pilot. Funding in place for 3 years. Report outlines ideas; has been and continues to be tweaked and changed by legislators.

Larry Crist of the Parent Representation Center presented a PowerPoint presentation (to be attached). He spoke about his organization's report, [Bending the Curve to Improve our Child Protection System](#).

6. Announcements

No announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.