

**Vermont Commission on Women
Reproductive Justice & Sexual Health Committee
Meeting Minutes**
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Virtual meeting

Commissioners present: Esther Charlestin, Aleta Sprague, and Susan Sussman
Commissioners absent: Hazel Brewster
Advisors Present: Logan Snow with Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Staff present: Ellie Lane
Facilitating: Esther Charlestin
Recording: Ellie Lane

Meeting called to order at 12:00 pm.

1. Welcome

Esther welcomed the group.

2. Reproductive justice policy statement

The group will add the footnote to SisterSong back to the document. Ellie will do this so that the final draft can be circulated to the full Commission before our next meeting. The group discussed the suggestion to add Sexual, Reproductive, and Health Equity from the Health Department and ultimately decided this statement is not the place for that language.

3. Disability & reproductive justice statement

Aleta volunteered to work together with Ellie and staff on an initial policy statement. They will consider the scope of this policy, and whether it should be focused on reproductive justice for women with disabilities or be a broader statement on the rights of women with disabilities that includes reproductive rights. Logan shared a [Zine from Planned Parenthood](#). Aleta shared a resource to review. [General comment No. 3 \(2016\), Article 6: Women and girls with disabilities | Refworld](#)

4. Incarcerated women & reproductive justice/menstrual equity

Esther volunteered to lead on this statement. Esther is meeting with FreeHer later today, and is working to schedule a meeting with Ashley Messier. We will also ask about this at our upcoming focus groups with women who are incarcerated at CRCF.

5. New business & updates

The group discussed the DCF lawsuit, and Susan wondered if this can be covered in our disability policy statement. Logan suggested a statement opposing fetal personhood

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bills. The group discussed whether we should make an explicit statement opposing fetal personhood bills. Ellie will share an existing document with the group that outlines the kinds of actions the Commission can take in response to these kinds of events.

6. Next committee meeting

Tuesday, February 25th at noon.

Adjourned at 12:39 pm.