

VERMONT COMMISSION ON WOMEN
HOUSING & CAREGIVING COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, November 9, 2023

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Heather Bouchey, Esther Charlestin, Sophia Rabe

Staff present: Cary Brown

Recording: Cary Brown

1. Choose a chair for the committee
 - a. Sophia volunteered
2. Review focus charges for all committees:
 - a. Advocacy
 - b. Public engagement
 - c. Amplification of voices
3. Discuss possible areas of focus for the committee
 - a. Cary – paid family leave, shelter for unhoused people, elder care, economy of caregiving
 - b. Heather – if we had groups come and talk to us what would we do?
 - c. Cary gave some overview of things that committees have done
 - d. Heather – a ton going on in housing legislatively and high level policy wise – doesn't know if there's been enough work done on lack of housing for women and families, especially if they're being headed by a woman – more children experiencing homelessness
 - e. Heather is very interested in efforts going on to reduce domestic violence – can we look at people who are losing housing because of domestic violence?
 - f. Sophia – so many of these issues link together – hard to prioritize
 - g. Esther – highlight great things happening – such as Habitat – great opportunity for us to highlight it, bring them in to talk about their work
 - h. Esther – a service project in the spring with Habitat?
 - i. Heather likes the focus on showcasing good things – how do we assist replication
 - j. Esther – probably a lot of programs that are helping but people don't know – how do we use our platform to share
 - k. Heather – should we brainstorm ideas and then come up with shared priorities at next meeting?
 - l. Sophia – is there something that VCW as a whole has been working on that committee can amplify? Paid leave, something else? Housing for women leaving incarceration, my suggestion
 - m. Sophia – should we reverse engineer from what commission is already working on?
 - n. Heather – feeling overwhelmed by global topic of housing – there just isn't housing and maybe we can amplify that message
 - o. Esther – what if we focused on looking at what's happening with housing in Newport and see if they want to talk to us at the meeting
 - p. Heather knows of the CTE in Newport bought a house with a state funded revolving loan fund – students are fixing it up to be a home

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- q. If other things come up people can email us
- 4. Identify Advisory Council organizations to invite to participate
 - a. Mercy Connections
- 5. Set future meeting times