



**EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday January 13, 2020 | 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Teleconference**

**Commissioners present:** Nancy Brooks, Sarah Mell

**Commissioners absent:** Kellie Campbell

**Advisors present:** Jen Horowitz & intern Logan Booker of Let's Grow Kids, Amy Russo-Perler of Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance.

**Staff present:** Hannah Lane

**Presiding:** Nancy Brooks

**Recording:** Hannah Lane

---

**Called to order at 11:30 a.m.**

Nancy expressed willingness to facilitate in Kellie's absence, and called the meeting to order.

The latest draft of Committee's charging language was shared with the group. Nancy invited feedback on the draft language.

The group identified that missing from the language is reintegrative education opportunities for women coming out of corrections.

There was discussion about the balance between capturing what we should be working on and our priorities vs. being too specific, and also the risk of leaving out things.

Nancy expressed her goal as moving from a Committee umbrella that changes our focus from victimization to one of opportunity.

Jen suggested: "Education systems and learning spaces are welcoming to girls and womxn from all ethnicities, backgrounds, and abilities. Womxn and girls should have access to educational opportunities in their desired fields of interest, and they should be able to and encouraged to pursue careers in all fields, regardless of prior representation." But, she doesn't love "regardless of prior representation".

Sarah liked the gender inclusivity in the original language. How can we be more gender expansive in our work in general, and inclusive of those who don't identify on the binary

Updated proposal from Jen: "Education systems and learning spaces are free of gender bias, harassment, and bullying. They are welcoming to girls and womxn from all ethnicities, backgrounds, and abilities. Womxn and girls should have access to educational opportunities in their desired fields of

interest, and they should be able to and encouraged to pursue careers in all fields, regardless of prior representation.”

How do we encompass the core components that we’re interested in addressing and focusing on, without creating a list that we’re going to want to ebb and flow?

There is continued value in identifying the harm that women experience.

Nancy asked about “women” vs. “womxn” and what that means.

Jen offered that her understand is that “womxn” is more inclusive of people who identify on the spectrum, but there are other ways of using that word.

Sarah added that the “x” can signal different things to different groups. It has it’s roots in black feminism, and signals the intention to center women of color. Sarah added that she likes to think of gender as a galaxy.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**