



EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 18, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference

Commissioners present:

Kellie Campbell, Nancy Brooks, Sarah Mell

Commissioners absent:

Advisors present:

Jen Horowitz of Let's Grow Kids, Charlie Gliserman and Amy Russo-Perler of Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance

Staff present:

Hannah Lane

Presiding:

Kellie Campbell

Recording: Hannah Lane

Called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Reviewing Committee Language

EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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

VCW monitors legislation and public policies, provides research and information, and collaborates on measures that support the following outcomes:

- Schools are free of gender bias, harassment and bullying.
- Women and girls have equal access and encouragement to pursue education and careers in science, technology, engineering and math.
- Women have equal access to workforce training and development throughout their lives.

Kellie asked for reactions and thoughts about what's missing. Responses generated included:

- The role and importance of early childhood education is not reflected here, both from perspective of for children and families, in terms of opportunity.
- It's very schools based. There is a lot of learning and human development that happens outside of schools, including afterschool, etc. Wondering about support at school or care centers, things that allow women and girls and their families that allow them to learn. VCW has a strong STEM focus, and what about other educational paths?

- Worried about availability of affordable, accessible higher education. State Colleges funding. Not much about higher education in this.
- Access pillar, defining access, looking at Listening Project – 25% indicated access to education barriers as problems. Child care, affordability, transportation.
- Suggesting a language change to “people of all genders have equal access”. There are more fields that are dominated by male-identified folks, but the bigger population is predominantly women-identified folks. Military as an educational space? Education for incarcerated women at CRCF?
- Community survey of families with children at home under the age of 18, and key challenges were from families of children of specialized needs, special education is a challenge, especially during COVID-19. Equitable access to education, rather than equal access.
- Equitable access is a lifeline issues, should be reflected in the whole section.
- Human Development piece includes ACES and the ways in which the systems are also somehow now being charged with doing the social work with kids who have experienced multiple forms of trauma. What’s the role of this committee in holding up supports for children. Is part of the call here to create stronger support systems? Advocating for policy and legislation that impacts curriculum in our schools.
- There is not a one-size fits all solution; things vary across the state.

Brainstorming priorities

Topics come in to the Commission and we focus on those, and some others drop off. We are working on finding a way to infuse the priorities into our work, and not lose track of them. There is an opportunity for us to weed through the recent work and be sure that we’re pulling out those voices, and ensuring they are on our radar and our list. Would like the Commission to vote on their priorities. Narrowing down to top 3-5 issues for us to focus on going forward.

- Department of Health Youth Risk Behavior Survey, we could be looking at that, and that could help.
- COVID impact/data gathering.
- Equity in suspension and expulsion, gender & race inequities.
- Dress codes, oversexualization of girls, impact on ability to engage with and access education. Need for gender-neutral dress codes and need to shift culture about this in schools.
- Would love to see a compilation of dress codes for middle/high schools across the state - I bet it would be fascinating
- Access to higher education
- Title IX – we might want to wait and see what the new administration does about this.
- Title IX will be unpredictable until the President-elect is inaugurated and we have a sense of whether or not the DeVos guidance will be thrown out, which is not to say it's not still an issue for us to focus on, just one that is in flux again
- Equal Pay – Occupational segregation component.
- Women, Work, Child Care document
- Access our voices and consider who isn’t here.

Reflections:

There are new childcare proposal coming this year, and Advisors could use our support on those.

Early educators are lowest paid of any college degree in the country.

Adjourned at 10:02 a.m.