



EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 4, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference

Commissioners present:

Marcia Merrill
Nancy Brooks

Commissioners absent:

Kellie Campbell

Advisors present:

Charlie Gliserman, Public Engagement Director, Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance

Staff present:

Hannah Lane

Presiding:

Marcia Merrill

Recording: Hannah Lane

Meeting called to order 9:00 a.m.

1. Review draft of listening project survey data Commissioners reviewed at VCW's February meeting

Thorough, well done, liked it being broken down by age and geography. Interesting and very helpful.

What kind of ways the Commission could have some effect, even if not huge, on the affordability of education and access to early care and learning.

The question of child care question is a huge one.

Charlie suggested we consult with Jen Horowitz at Let's Grow Kids.

Are there non-legislative paths to engage with these topics? Because we can't often be the lead because of our unique position within State Government, are there places outside of the legislative arena we could have a bigger impact?

Because the early childhood field is women dominated, and is primarily impacting women. There is not a strong voice talking about how childcare is a women's issue – are their

opportunities for the Commission to be more visible about how childcare is a gender equity issue. Quarter sheet, messaging campaign, tabling, etc.

Can always use more support inside the building, but many people are working on this in the Statehouse.

2. Review listening project recommendations and discuss with group

Nancy: How are we planning to roll this report is, what's the dissemination plan? Is the best use of this data to really just be a resource.

Charlie: Any solutions to the main problems/challenges all require significant state investments. Is there more general language that the Commission could put out there about the need for state investment in human services, or the challenges cited in the report. The sticking point on these issues is budgetary.

Nancy: One thing that was new, or not often on our radar is mental health care.

Marcia: Our geography makes things difficult; our population is small, and services aren't accessible. Our recommendations are very general, could we be more specific? When we're general, we don't make the impact.

Nancy: One of the things that's really valuable coming out of this compilation – quotes, anecdotes, that can strengthen our general messaging. Weaving this data into our work and our public messaging.

Charlie: It would be great if we are not already working with the Coalition for Disability Rights. They could offer help developing recommendations. Ed Paquin & AJ Ruben at Disability Rights Vermont lead this effort.

Next steps: Review this in more detail, and come to next week's Commission meeting ready to discuss this.

3. Promote Equal Pay Compact

Commissioners working on this, Nancy Brooks has a few businesses eager to sign. PC Construction, and an automotive dealer. Encouraging businesses to issue press releases that they've signed on.

Are there opportunities for the Equal Pay Compact at industry conferences?

Nancy got a little blurb in the Chamber of Commerce newsletter. With all the trade associations out there, is this something we can investigate?

Charlie: VBSR/Main Street Alliance – ask them for another push?

Meeting Adjourned at 9:44 a.m.