State of Vermont
Vermont Commission on Women
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Vermont Commission on Women
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 9th, 2021 | 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Remote Meeting via video and teleconferencing

Commissioners present:
Lisa Senecal (Chair), Ed Adrian, Nancy Brooks, Kellie Campbell, Wendy Knight, Sarah Mell, Ashley Messier, Kiah Morris, Lisa Ryan

Commissioners absent:
Lisa Carlson, Mary Daly, Kerin Durfee, Erica Hare, Kim Nolan, Heidi Tringe

Advisors present:
Meredith Roberts, ANA Vermont
Matt Levin, Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Michelle Fay, Voices for Vermont's Children
Alison Lamagna, Vermont Works for Women
Katie Salina, Let's Grow Kids

Guests: Al Johnson-Kurts, Change The Story Vermont
Staff: Cary Brown, Hannah Lane, Lilly Talbert
VCW Interns: Grace Bickham, Keith Chatinover, Alex Sipos
Presiding: Lisa Senecal
Recording: Hannah Lane

1. Welcome and Opening
Meeting called to order at 9:35 a.m.

Lisa Senecal welcomed everyone and asked folks to introduce themselves.

2. Announcements
Alison shared that LunaFest is tomorrow at the Colchester Drive-In, they'll be showing the LunaFest film series, films by and about women, and it's a fundraiser for Vermont Works for Women.

Lilly sent folks an email with media coverage of Change The Story's LEEP Toolkit Launch yesterday, as well as links to the toolkit, check that out. Cary gave a shoutout to Lilly and Al and the whole CTS team for their work on the toolkit. More than 200 folks came to the launch. It was great to have Evelyn Murphy there to speak.

Kiah shared that on Thursday, Rights & Democracy is doing part 2 of a series the *Race - Class Academy* with Mia Shultz and Asma Elhuni, Kiah's counterpart at RAD NH. In part one, they interviewed Prof. Ian Haney Lopez.

the Just Transition subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council will host a special discussion to go through the guiding principles they've created for responding to the climate crisis on the 17th at 4:00 p.m.

Meredith shared that the American Nursing Association "Hill Day" is tomorrow where nurses from around the nation meet their national legislators. At least 500 are coming.

Sarah shared that the City of Burlington is hosting their first annual celebration of Juneteeth on 6/19 at locations around the city, find more information at https://www.juneteenthbtv.org/.

Among the many events happening, VCW Commissioner Kiah Morris will be speaking at *Contextualizing Juneteenth* at 4:00 p.m. at Roosevelt Park.

Nancy shared that the Education & Human Development Committee & Health Committee came together for a joint meeting and are interested in putting together a joint op-ed during Pride Month, giving a heads up she'll be sharing that out for input.

3. Corrections

The Ad Hoc committee updated the Commission on their work considering how to get input from the people who are most affected by any operations and changes within the correctional system, and asked for thoughts and participation on designing a plan for actions we'll take over the summer and fall, to provide information to the public, and to DOC and Buildings and General Services (BGS). We want to ask about what community support women need that might have kept them out of prison, that they will need when they get out to be successful.

Some of the main threads emerging from the discussion included:

- Is the Commission prepared to take a position?
- Do Commissioners have the knowledge and education & Commissioners to engage in this process?
- What does it look like to represent the voices of those most impacted?

Wendy shared an article Women's Prison Plagued by Sexual Violence Will Close, Governor Says - The New York Times (nytimes.com) about the New Jersey Governor closing women's prison after years of reported sexual abuse.

Cary is meeting with Commissioner Baker tomorrow and will update the ad hoc committee after that conversation.

4. Approve Meeting Minutes

Approve minutes of May 2021
MOTION made by Lisa, seconded by Sarah:
To approve the May 2021 minutes as submitted.
Hearing no nays, the motion is unanimously passed.

5. VCW Planning Process

Cary wants to get a sense of whether we have a commitment from folks about meeting over the summer for the planning process. We'd like to focus on getting clear about our values over the summer. She has one proposal from a facilitator, and expects another one to come in this week, and those are just for the summer piece, to get the values established in a one-day retreat.

5. Meeting Schedule

We sent a proposed meeting schedule, with the idea that we'd meet in September & June in person for longer meetings, and have shorter, virtual meetings in between. We heard from a lot of people that this day was good but earlier was better.

Commissioners would like Cary to send out a Doodle to try to pick a different day for Commission meetings.

6. Chairs election

The nominations received were almost all for co-chairs. Some accepted & some declined. Three people nominated agreed and agreed to serve together: Kiah, Kellie & Lisa Senecal, who are running unopposed.

Election of Chair for the 2021 – 2023 term
NOMINATION made by Ed, seconded by Nancy:
To appoint Kiah Morris, Lisa Senecal, & Kellie Campbell as tri-chairs of the Commission by universal proclamation
Hearing no nays, Kiah, Kellie, & Lisa are elected VCW's new tri-chairs.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:32 a.m.