



## Vermont Commission on Women

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 | 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

32 College St, Montpelier VT

#### Commissioners present:

Marcia Merrill (Chair), Gretchen Bailey, Carol Buchdahl, Deborah Bucknam, Kellie Campbell, Mary Daly, Charlotte Dennett, Ruth Finn, Emilie Kornheiser, Melinda Moulton, Marybeth Christie Redmond, Kerry Secrest, Lisa Senecal

#### Commissioners absent:

Eileen Boland, Danielle Martel

#### Advisors present:

Ashley Michelle Fowler of Mercy Connections  
Diane Derby of U.S. Senator Leahy's Office

**Guests:** Anne Corbin, Edisa Muller, Megan Wheaton-Book

**Staff:** Cary Brown, Hannah Lane, Lilly Talbert

**Presiding:** Marcia Merrill

**Recording:** Hannah Lane

### 1. & 2. Call to order and approval of minutes

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Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

#### Approval of June 13, 2018 Minutes

**MOTION** made by Carol, seconded by Lisa:

To approve the June 13, 2018 minutes as submitted.

**MOTION APPROVED. Adopted as presented.**

#### Approval of June 28, 2018 Minutes

**MOTION** made by Carol, seconded by Lisa:

To approve the June 28, 2018 minutes as submitted.

**MOTION APPROVED. Adopted as presented.**

### 3. Records Management training

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Megan Wheaton-Book, Records & Information Management Specialist, Vermont State Archives & Records Administration provided a records management training to the Commission. Key takeaway points include that all emails, voicemails, and notes made in the course of conducting Commission business are public records and must be stored, not disposed of. VCW staff will follow-up about the implementation of potential new processes.

#### 4. Warm-up discussion activity

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Anne Corbin of CAPS led a warm-up activity icebreaker, H.O.P.E.! How One Voice Progresses Everyone.

#### 5. Listening Project

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##### Updates

We have 1550 surveys completed, and staff is encouraging Commissioners to continue to distribute paper surveys at locations in their communities.

The St. Albans Listening Project event will take place Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. St. Albans City Hall. Refreshments will be served.

The Brattleboro Listening Project event will take place on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Brooks Memorial Library; Emilie would like a poster designed. The event will be a facilitated, open conversation with prompt questions, and they will provide snacks.

The Newport event will be on October 5<sup>th</sup>, at noon, lunch will be served. It is invitation only; they have confirmed 19 participants plus seven planning committee members. They are pulling together representatives from service providers, community organizations, and have asked them to bring a client with them.

##### Structure of Report and Recommendations

Anne Corbin facilitated a discussion on issues to consider as the Listening Project report is drafted later this fall/winter.

#### 6. Policy updates discussion

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##### Updates from Health, Safety, & Civil Rights Committee

Carol went over the proposed updates with the group, the proposed changes will be voted on in October.

##### Updates from the Economic Equity & Security committee

The Economic Equity and Security Policies are still in review and the committee welcomes feedback.

#### 7. Staff Updates

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**Budget** - Cary reviewed our budget process.

**Senator Leahy's Women's Economic Opportunity Conference (WEOC)** is Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Lisa will be presenting a workshop on Sexual Harassment. Staff is looking for a few Commissioners to volunteer to table at WEOC, which involves talking with folks about our work, answering questions, and encouraging survey participation. Email Hannah if you're available/interested.

**2020 Planning** – On September 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 12, Lilly is gathering folks around planning 2020 events to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. The League of Women Voters of Vermont is taking the lead, and we’re helping to gather folks together.

**The New England Women’s Policy Initiative Conference (NEWPI)** will take place in Boston on November 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday, we’ll be sending our staff and also sending information to Commissioners about registration as soon as it’s available.

**The Vermont Women’s Fund Annual Event** is happening on 10/30 in Burlington; staff will follow-up with more details.

We now have 160 Equal Pay Compact Signers and have been inviting them about appropriate events like the listening project events, new Central Vermont Business Peer Exchange. Keep that group in mind.

Kudos to Eileen, Melinda, Danielle, Kerry, and Emilie for their hard work getting the listening project events off the ground. Thanks to Gretchen for all her work on the Legal Rights of Women in Vermont.

Thanks to Lisa for her continued work on H.707.

Welcome, Kellie!

## **8. Planning FY2019 Activities**

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Anne Corbin led us in a discussion about potential FY19 activities.

### **Sisters Unite! Proposal**

The discussion and topic will be shared with the Change the Story steering committee and we will continue to consider how to address the proposal’s goals.

### **Legislative Lunch – Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, approx. \$3500**

**Determining whether to host the Biennial Legislative Lunch on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.**

**MOTION** made by **Ruth**, seconded by **Carol**:

To host the Biennial Legislative Lunch on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

Ruth moved to call the question.

Commission voted to call the question.

**MOTION APPROVED. Adopted as presented.**

Lisa will convene a meeting of Commissioners to work on fundraising for the Vermont Commission on Women Education and Research Foundation in order to fund the Legislative Lunch.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:01 p.m.**