

**Vermont Commission on Women
Reproductive Justice & Sexual Health Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 | 10:00 am – 10:45 am
Virtual meeting

Commissioners present: Hazel Brewster, Esther Charlestin, Susan Sussman, and Aleta Sprague

Commissioners absent: Nancy Kaplan

Staff present: Ellie Lane

Facilitating: Aleta Sprague

Recording: Ellie Lane

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am.

1. Welcome

Aleta welcomed the group.

2. Discuss the draft reproductive justice policy statement circulated in advance of the meeting

Overall, everyone loved the draft, great job. Two small concerns were raised, and included the overall readability/accessibility & a little revision of the paragraph about our racial positionality. Aleta and Esther and Ellie will work on these changes together and bring an updated draft to the committee for a vote on January 9th at noon.

3. Discuss the proposed list of additional policy statements to update and a plan to begin that work

The group expressed interest in maternal and reproductive healthcare for incarcerated people. Logan shared concerns about menstrual equity for incarcerated people. Esther is taking the lead on moving that issue forward. She will plan to connect with Ashley Messier and Free Her to learn more.

Involuntary sterilization is a staff priority. Logan noted that the law is in violation of the Reproductive Liberty Amendment (RLA). The group had a discussion about an avenue to have a legislator get this off the books. The group discussed a broader statement for women with disabilities, that this could be included in. The group will discuss this further in January.

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4. Determine facilitator for next meeting

Aleta will facilitate the meeting on 1/9. Hazel will facilitate the meeting on 1/17 and Esther will be backup.

Adjourned at 10:44 am.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 9, 12:00 – 12:15 p.m.