



**HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 12, 2021 | 9 – 10 a.m. | Online**

**Commissioners present:** Mary Daly, Lisa Senecal, Lisa Carlson

**Staff present:** Lilly Talbert

**Presiding:** Mary Daly

**Recording:** Lilly Talbert

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**Meeting called to order at 9:03 AM**

Welcome

**VOTE: Meeting minutes**

Mary moves, Lisa S seconds, meeting minutes from [March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021](#) approved.

**Nutrition in Schools | review, discussion and updates**

Lisa C. plans to attend a Farm to School committee later this week and will provide an update at our next meeting. She reported the Universal Free School Meal bill is in Senate Education and Agriculture Committees, and that the issue is opposition to raising taxes to pay for ongoing costs. Senators are working to find a compromise amendment that can pass, currently that includes providing free breakfast and a taskforce to study the issue. Lisa S asked about use of one-time COVID-19 funds. Lisa C will ask Senator Kitchel about that. Lisa S. also suggested launching a pilot program for the taskforce to study how it went.

Mary asked about stats on children arriving to school with no breakfast and expressed concern that parents aren't taking responsibility for their children's wellbeing. Lisa S. responded that the reason, likely during COVID-19 more than ever, is that many families don't have money to purchase enough food for kids. There are also circumstances with working parents and kids needing to be up early to catch the bus, and fitting in breakfast is challenging. Hunger impacts kid's ability to learn. Mary asked about federal nutritional guidelines, and the group discussed the incredible challenge of per meal cost restrictions that school meal staff must adhere to.

**COVID-19 Pandemic | Sharing and Discussion**

Discussion focused on personal vaccinations and experience and that of family. Mary asked if there was data about why some Vermonters chose not to vaccinate. VCW staff will continue to carry VDH messaging on our channels, social media, newsletter, website, and continues to focus on pandemic impacts to women on our dashboard.

**Postpartum Follow-up Home Visits | Discussion**

Lisa C. offered to report on status of bill in a follow up email post-meeting: [H.44](#): to establish a universal home visiting program for families caring for newborn infants and also parenting classes within obstetric

and midwifery practices. Lead Sponsor is Rep. Till of Jericho. Currently in [House Committee on Human Services](#) and doesn't look like it's moved.

**Possible Collaboration with the Education and Human Development Committee | [Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(YRBS\) data](#)**

After a short discussion with included how schools respond or are called to respond to these issues, the group enthusiastically agreed to partner with the committee, and suggested we consider a combined meeting. The group found the Key Findings shared compelling and support the focus on BIPOC kids and the focus on developing healthy vs. coercive relationships for girls. Our committee offers to invite allied Advisors, including Vermont Department of Health if not already a part, to this meeting.

**Other business**

Meeting adjourned at 9:41

Next meetings:

- May 10<sup>th</sup>
- June 7<sup>th</sup>
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