



HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 7, 2020 | 9 – 10 a.m.

Commissioners present: Mary Daly (Presiding), Lisa Senecal, Lisa Carlson

Staff: Lilly Talbert (Recording)

Meeting called to order 9:01 a.m.

VOTE: Review, discuss and vote to approve [draft minutes November 9th](#) meeting
Lisa S motions to approve, Lisa C seconds; November minutes approved.

Nutrition in Schools | review, discussion and planning

Lisa C. contacted Dana Hudson of Farm to School. Due to COVID-19 their school leaders campaign elevating the importance and impact of school nutrition programs and farm to school is on hold; put in touch with Maire Folan the program manager of Green Mountain Farm to School. They are working on developing two grant funded committee projects involving classroom, cafeteria and community, in the districts of Caledonia Central and in Orange East. These will be small groups comprised of those working in food programs and those living in the communities. Lisa will join one of these groups and will listen and assess, reporting back to our committee so that we might determine recommendations for VCW involvement. These groups are just taking shape, so this may be a process of many months. They do have a focus on integration of the education component the committee cares about.

Betsy Rosenbluth, Vermont FEED Project Director is reworking talking points that our committee might use for an Op ed to bring awareness and support. Lisa C. will report back.

Committee members requested from VCW staff a one-page document with steps VCW as a commission can take on issues. Lilly will put together.

The Committee plans to take part in Farm to School Awareness Day in February.

Women's health project | discussion and planning

Lisa C. is working on a draft list of tests that might be helpful for women to have on hand at medical appointments. Lisa C will work with her VA Dr. who practices functional medicine to review it. Lisa S offered to see if her Dr. would also review. VCW Advisors would likely also review. Lisa C. would like to share a relevant book, Dr. Lisa Mosconi's [The XX Brain](#). She'll put together a quick book review + share.

Trans Women and Trans Youth policy statements discussion moved to January meeting

CRCF menstrual supplies | discussion

The committee discussed the inmate's use of menstrual pads for incontinence and the lack of dignity involved in having to request these products from male correctional officers. The committee spoke about conditions for the women, especially now, the fact their family members must travel to Burlington to visit, and the dilapidated state of the building. Lisa S. will meet with Cary about what the most effective steps would be to express our concerns.

COVID-19 | discussion

The committee reflected on Vermont Department of Health's [Title V Needs Assessment](#) report and the adjunct notes about dramatic increases in prenatal and postnatal depression and anxiety. Lisa S. wondered if increased access to telehealth for mental health counseling is accessible and available to all who need it – and what is specialist service provider capacity for this particular population? Lisa C. offered to contact the local hospital to see what services are offered post-partum.

Lisa S. would like VCW to play a role in vaccine pre-distribution education. There is so much misinformation out there now and it's likely going to get worse. What can we contribute to educate and ready Vermonters? Lisa S. thought we could put together one-pagers, similar to the ones education committee did, and target different groups, or focus on truth vs. myth. Lilly said we can push VDH messaging on this topic on our social media. Mary, as a member of the Medical Reserve Corps will likely be helping to vaccinate, and may be able to access messaging about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines. Lilly will assemble a draft.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54.