



**HEALTH, SAFETY & CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday March 12, 2019 | 8:30-9:15 a.m.**

**Via Skype**

**Members present:** Carol Buchdahl, Mary Daly, Lisa Senecal

**Presiding:** Carol Buchdahl

**Recording:** Lilly Talbert

Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Review of draft policy revisions: *Youth Sexual Health and Education and Teen Pregnancy and Sexuality Education***

Committee members would like to recognize committee member Kim Swartz (Advisor to VCW from VT Department of Health, and Director of Preventive Reproductive Health in the Division of Maternal and Child Health) who lead this project. Kim worked with her Division colleagues Sara Chesbrough (Kim's alternate to the VDH Advisory position) and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Coordinator, and Sharonlee Trefry, State School Nurse Consultant, as well as Andrea Nicoletta, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England's Education Program Manager. Huge thanks to all these professionals for lending us their expertise!

**Discussion:** Members discussed ***Youth Sexual Health and Education*** policy draft first. Mary put forth that a child's health and welfare should be the primary responsibility of parents, and expressed concern for schools overburdened with many non-academic requirements.

Carol suggested one content change to improve clarity in the 5th paragraph, 3rd sentence: Change to: In 2016, there were 347 pregnancies to Vermont teens aged 15-19. Two-hundred and thirteen (or 61%) resulted in teen births.

Lilly proposed the *Resources to support and guide sex education in VT* section be moved to VCW's Resource Directory.

**Outcome:** Committee members agree (motion made by Lisa S., seconded by Mary) to submit *Youth Sexual Health and Education* policy with suggested changes to VCW for review.

**Discussion:** Members discussed ***Teen Pregnancy and Sexuality Education*** policy draft next. Lisa S. reflected that, like in other recent studies, the facts in this document show a dramatic reduction in teen sexual activity.

Lisa S. suggested that gender identity be included in the 1st paragraph (after our intro sentence), 1<sup>st</sup> sentence list of topics.

**Outcome:** Committee members agree (motion made by Mary, seconded by Lisa S.) to submit *Teen Pregnancy and Sexuality Education* policy with suggested changes to the full Commission for review.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 a.m.