

# **Vermont Commission on Women**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 8, 2020 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Remote Meeting via video and teleconferencing**

### **Commissioners present:**

Lisa Senecal (Chair), Ed Adrian, Kellie Campbell, Mary Daly, Emilie Kornheiser, Sarah Mell, Heidi Tringe

### **Commissioners absent:**

Nancy Brooks, Lisa Carlson, Charlotte Dennett, Erica Hare, Kim Nolan, Marybeth Christie Redmond, Lisa Ryan

### **Advisors present:**

Jen Horwitz of Let's Grow Kids

Rhoni Basden of Vermont Works for Women

Marguerite Adelman of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Burlington Chapter

**Guests:** Lisa Guererro of Ultimate Solutions, Aly Johnson-Kurts of Change The Story Vermont

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

**Presiding:** Lisa Senecal

**Recording:** Hannah Lane

## **1. Welcome/Introductions**

Meeting called to order at 9:37 a.m.

Lisa welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves and to share their priority for Vermont women.

We have an agenda adjustment to move the VSCA discussion to 10:45 – 11.

## **2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes**

Postponed, lack of quorum.

## **3. Emergency Economic Recovery Grants for Minority/Women Owned Businesses**

Cary provided an overview of grant program and the partners. Outreach & technical assistance is being provided by the Partnership for Fairness & Diversity and the Center for Women & Enterprise. We need to do additional outreach to the minority owned businesses. PSA was sent out yesterday to 56 radio stations, we've created a flier, done the usual internet outreach. We could use some help thinking about what else we could do to reach small businesses that might not be online, not as well connected.

Discussion points included:

- They are being screened so that they get these grants if not otherwise eligible.
- Women & minority owned language – we talked about historically underrepresented folks, which would cover a lot more folks, LGBTQ folks, New Americans, etc.
- Most childcare providers are women-owned businesses. There are differences in how the grants are being administered based on the grant program. Childcare programs are not eligible for ACCD grants. Wants folks to be aware there is a separate set of funds for childcare programs. Want to let folks know about the Restart programs, and there are options to help them figure out what the best program is for their business.
- Translated versions of the information should be ready this week. Should be technical assistance available from the Center for Women & Enterprise and the Partnership for Fairness & Diversity.
- Heidi will send it to the ElevateHer network. VWW will resend the newsletter with just this info. Has posted on SM. WBON has been working on outreach on this. Lisa Guerrero, Refugee Immigrant Service Providers Network (RISPN) – New American & Refugee population.

#### 4. Staff Updates

Cary provided a budget update that we are being directed to a 5% decrease from what we had asked for FY21. Looking like we can hang on to our staff, but this is not a done deal. Have some surplus funds, and possibly some CARES money.

Data Dashboard created by Anna, who is unfortunately no longer with us as her temporary position ended June 30. Her report got a ton of media attention. Emilie and Cary went on Vermont Edition; Lisa and Cary went on WDEV; stories on WCAX and Times Argus Rutland Herald; a new VPR digital piece. Let us know what other kinds of data you'd like to see in that.

Anna created a report on our Listening Project, which we did a year and a half ago when we conducted a survey that reached 2200 people, as well as a series of public forums. That report is published and posted on our website. It has a ton of information in it that is applicable. Anna worked with the data and our partners, and the Change The Story data released December and created two pagers on different topics, and those are also posted on our website.

A Northern Vermont University intern is working on compiling gender composition and per diem compensation of statewide boards and commissions. This is part of an efforts towards an updated Women & Leadership report. If anyone is interested in working on that, we could use some help.

Health Committee update – Mary working on an article to publish about the hazards of sodium in the diet.

Lisa - If you come across good pieces that have been published, you can ask your local paper to reprint good articles with credit.

New England Women’s Policy Initiative organizes a biennial conference, and 2020 is the next year of the biennial conference. We’ve been talking about what that might look like. It’s vague about whether this is going to be an in-person conference or a virtual one. Would love for Commissioners to be involved.

## 5. Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance

Sue Racanelli & Sandy Dooley

Sandy – Former Commissioner, Chair of Fundraising Committee for VSCA. VSCA has commissioned an original play, and Sarah is one of the three actors.

Sue – Director of LWVVT, VCW approached LWVVT to lead the VSCA. Fortunate to have Lilly’s guidance and direction. VSCA has a number of partners and had planned a number of activities including a parade and Suffrage Fest, and 5k. Play now in 2021. Suffrage 5k is now virtual. Lilly screen shared the VSCA website, while Sue offered an overview, and acknowledged the racism in the suffrage movement and that obstacles to voting continue today as we move forward. Sandy explained that fundraising is put off until the end of the year, but highlighted the voter pledge on the website, encouraging folks to take the pledge. Sue invited more folks to join the effort to commemorate the anniversary. You can sign up to join the alliance, and that will add you to an informational email list.

## 6. Announcements

VSCA has a 5k coming up, the week of primaries (August 11th) called the Suffrage Scramble, all the proceeds will go to the NAACP to promote voting efforts, and you can run or walk the 5k throughout the week, and folks will get a sash that says Votes for All, and they will be asking folks to share their images as they participate.

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.**