



VERMONT COMMISSION ON WOMEN

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2020 | 9 – 10 a.m.

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

Staff: Lilly Talbert (Recording)

Meeting called to order 9:03 a.m.

VOTE: Approve [minutes from April meeting](#)

Mary motions to approve; Lisa S. seconds; April minutes approved.

Discussion: nutrition project

Mary directs the group to review goals and work toward specific suggestions to finalize this project. Lisa C. suggests our goals align with Vermont Farm to School Network's set forth in [2018 Vermont Integrated Food, Farm, and Nutrition Programming Data Harvest](#), as follows: *by 2025, 75% of Vermont schools will lead the cultural shift to a values-based food system that engages 75% of our students in integrated food system education; community-based learning; nourishing universal meals; and the experience of self-efficacy, purchasing at least 50% from a socially just and environmentally and financially sustainable regional food system.*

The group discussed exploring what VCW can do to support organizations implementing goals getting nutrition and improved education. Lisa C. plans to attend quarterly meetings of the Vermont Nutrition Education Committee, working to better align the goals and activities of state agencies working on federal food assistance and physical activity programs. Once she's attended a couple of these meetings, Lisa will report back about what role we might be able to play. Lisa continues to communicate with Rebecca (Becca) Mitchell, Child Nutrition Initiatives Manager at Hunger Free Vermont about the [Nutrition Education Hub](#), and will also schedule a conversation with Betsy Rosenbluth, Vermont FEED Project Director, as well as Abbie Nelson's replacement at Northeast Organic Farmer's Association at some point. Group members thank Lisa C. for this work and leadership.

Discussion: COVID-19 impacts

The group discussed the fact that S.223 and H.812 will be delayed into next session, with potential new legislators, new committee membership, and a shifting fiscal and school landscape due to COVID-19 (C-19).

The group wondered if requests for home-delivered meals via schools has increased over time, as the economic impact deepens or becomes more apparent to families. Lisa C. will check with local person in charge and report back.

Lisa S. expressed concern over the pediatric care and vaccination schedules being put off due to exposure concerns with C-19. Wondering if it's time for SOV reminder message to be integrated into press conference. Lisa C. volunteered to contact the Governor or Commissioner Levine. Lisa S. spoke about other C-19 impacts such as more women opting for home births, folks putting off care or

diagnosis of symptoms and conditions, and mental health access, especially for medical staff with increased incidence of PTSD.

Lisa S. reported on connecting American Nursing Association's Meredith Roberts with state officials in order to discuss the lack of access to PPE supplies, especially masks, that her membership was reporting. Meredith may report on those conversations at VCW's meeting this week and may also provide some direction for further VCW involvement.

Lisa C. penned a NorthStar commentary, "Get Healthy Before the Next Pandemic" focused on what can be done to support an individual's health and immune system in C-19.

The group discussed disparities in health outcomes for minority and low-income populations and ways to encourage use of SNAP benefits for healthy foods.

Next steps: Prepare for Committee chair updates at Wednesday's meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 AM

Next meeting: Monday, June 8, 9 AM