

**State of Vermont****Vermont Commission on Women**

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800-881-1561**Vermont Commission on Women****Meeting Minutes****Wednesday, October 14, 2020 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.****Remote Meeting via video and teleconferencing****Commissioners present:**

Nancy Brooks, Kellie Campbell, Mary Daly, Charlotte Dennett,  
Erica Hare, Emilie Kornheiser, Sarah Mell, Ashley Messier, Kim  
Nolan, Heidi Tringe, Marybeth Christie Redmond, Lisa Ryan

**Commissioners absent:**

Lisa Senecal (Chair), Ed Adrian, Lisa  
Carlson

**Advisors present:**

Jen Horwitz of Let's Grow Kids  
Melissa Nelson of Vermont Works for Women  
Marguerite Adelman of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Burlington Chapter  
Diane Derby of the Office of Senator Leahy  
Kaitie Armstrong, Vermont Women in Law Enforcement  
Meredith Roberts of ANA Vermont  
Rachel Desautels of Girls on the Run  
Karen Tronsgard-Scott of the VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

**Guests:** Aly Johnson-Kurts & Jessica Nordhaus of Change The Story Vermont, Emily Pocock, VCW intern**Staff:** Cary Brown, Hannah Lane, Lilly Talbert**Presiding:** Kim Nolan**Recording:** Hannah Lane**1. Welcome/Introductions**

Meeting called to order at 9:36 a.m.

We require a meeting facilitator in Lisa's absence. We need nominations or volunteers, Kim Nolan was nominated and accepted. Kim invited everyone to introduce themselves.

**2. Approve Minutes of September 9, 2020****Approval of September 2020 Minutes****MOTION made by Marybeth, seconded by Heidi:****To approve the September 2020 minutes as submitted.**

**Roll Call:**

Emilie – Abstain  
Sarah – Yes  
Mary – Yes  
Marybeth – Yes  
Ashely – Yes  
Heidi – Yes  
Kim – Yes  
Nancy – Abstain  
Charlotte – Abstain

**MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE. Adopted as presented.**

**3. Racial Equity Learning Community**

Postponed until Lisa Senecal can be present.

**4. Staff Updates**

VCW's next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10; it was moved so as not to conflict with Veteran's Day.

**The New England Women's' Policy Initiative** conference is biennial, and this is the year it's to take place. It will take place virtually on December 2-4 in the mornings. There will be breakout sessions, and one of those will be on essential and low wage workers. There will be panelists from the Economic Policy Institute, and others who can speak to broader New England Issues as well as their local issues. This is hosted by the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and an invitation to register will be coming shortly. Keep an eye out. If you have thoughts, please share them with Cary.

**Change The Story** will have a steering committee meeting next week and will be continuing to discuss what comes next for Change The Story, and whether they will continue after March, and if so, what that looks like. If anyone has questions or thoughts, we have Jessica and Aly on the call and can take any questions. We do have funding, so the question is what the focus should be.

Discussion points included:

- Is there a way to have a conversation with the Women's Caucus leadership about how they could be helpful? It took a while for it to establish itself, but is established now. People are pulling Change The Story statistics across committee jurisdictions.
- opportunity to be bolder and stronger, not necessarily
- Thinks Change The Story is amazing, blown away at the amazing job you did. It would be nice to see you focus on the segregational occupation and what the wage gap looks like in those industries, and the impact of COVID, child care, women having to leave the workforce.

- COVID has an adverse impact on women and particularly Black and Brown women, and that's something that can strengthen the work of Change The Story. Maybe in their work, they can focus in on that.
- I think there's an opportunity, also, within CTS to continue to expand out beyond the binary to shed light on the impacts on trans and non-binary folks, particularly BIPOC trans and non-binary folks

## 2021 Legislative Lunch

Last biennium, we moved the date to Equal Pay Day. This time around it's snuck up on us. We will not host an in-person event, but wonder about whether we might host something virtually. Should we do that? What form could it take?

Discussion points included:

- perhaps having time to meet with specific individuals or Committees.
- I think it will be difficult to get people to join via zoom, especially considering that these folks are spending so much time on zoom. Maybe have smaller meetings hosted by Commissioners with their local legislators, who would feel more obligated to attend a meeting.
- agrees
- loves that idea. Maybe small luncheon groups could have themes about issues that are up for discussion. Over the lunch hour or first thing in the morning are good times to aim for.
- how would these meetings go? People are Zoomed out.
- via Zoom, but smaller, conversational would be more of a draw than an anonymous zoom presentation style event.
- Great idea. How can we leverage the budget

Leg Lunch Committee – HANNAH  
ASHELY  
LISA R  
KAREN  
EMILIE  
ALY

**Advisory Council meeting** shifted to December, giving advisors more time to get their agendas into place. Welcoming comments, thoughts, as we're planning that. Send them along if you have them.

## Proposed Transgender Individuals and Youth policy statements (first reading)

Came from Health and Safety Committee, got stalled, and now we're bringing it forward. The Committee voted it out of their Committee last week, and we're ready for you to discuss it, suggest any changes, and then we'll vote on it in November.

Discussion points included:

- Curious about why we're using 2017 data, rather than new data.
- Hannah – new data doesn't pull out transgender youth data specifically.
- Great statement, where is this coming from?
- Cary – An acknowledgment that this was missing, and to be more inclusive. We have heard from organizations that they don't think our work is inclusive. This would be a way to prioritize this, and then to start having a conversation about how to actualize it.
- Have community members seen this? I'm happy to help present this to community members for feedback.
- How does this fit in with non-binary folks? Change "criminal justice" to "criminal legal system".
- Been thinking about this in her own organization, and removing gendered language from their own website. Thinking about how the Commission defines "women" is important.
- At UVM, we've done the name change (Women's Center to Women & Gender Equity Center), and what I most appreciate about this Commission is the ways we recognize that name changes signal some shifts, but the work need to follow VT Commission on Gender Equity.

### **Legislative Update, created by Emily Potok (intern)**

Discussion points included:

- Are there bills that didn't move last biennium that we should be focused on? We're not talking about new ideas now, but focused on ones that will be coming back around.
- The massage bill was small, but some of the conversations around it are was very interesting. The point of licensing was the repeated sexual assaults by massage therapists. The reason to license someone is so that it can be removed. In her community, there is a yoga teacher who for a decade or more has been committing sexual assaults during private sessions. Recognition of the fact that the legal system doesn't really protect people from this.
- Coming from a law enforcement perspective, and a victim perspective, and wants to add that when we're pushing for things like licensing, it's important to understand who the regulatory office will be, and what their perspective will be. The state is beyond overwhelmed and would love to see a better system for accountability for the regulatory body, especially when it comes to reporting.
- that's really important. It's not just about creating the licensure but also looking at the whole system of how things are done. The Committee ran out of time and plans to continue with this next biennium. People have been asking about the menstrual products in schools proposal, and wonder why what didn't pass. They are committed to seeing that through. It may get folded into a bill eliminating sales tax.
- It would be a good strategy to connect the issues of menstrual supplies in schools, at CRCF as a collective.

### **5. Committee work**

- Civil & Legal Rights
- Economic Equity & Security
- Education & Human Development
- Health & Safety

## 6. Announcements

Inviting to a series of public Programs on 10/21 & 10/22, Sally Wagner, speaking about the complex story of Suffrage. Will share that information for everyone on how to join. Doing them before the Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> election to encourage voting.

The Complex History of Women’s Suffrage--October 21 (Wednesday): 7 to 9 PM Hosted by St. Michael’s College  
Women Voted Here—Before Columbus  
Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/before-columbus> (A Zoom link will be sent to your email address.)

October 22 (Thursday): 2:00 to 3:30 PM Hosted by the Community College of Vermont  
Women’s Suffrage: The Rest of the Story  
Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/rest-of-the-story> (A Zoom link will be sent to your email address.)

October 22 (Thursday): 5 to 6:30 PM Hosted by UVM’s Center for Cultural Pluralism  
POWER, PRIVILEGE & THE VOTE: Focus on Women, Culture and Herstories of Suffrage  
Link: <https://bit.ly/35POSiO> (A few minutes before the day and time of the program click on “Location/Format” for Microsoft Team Meetings and then click on “watch on

Sarah Zoom play, teaser

VT Network – Survivor's Vote campaign has started. Later on this week, they will be releasing a candidate questionnaire: [www.vtnetwork.org](http://www.vtnetwork.org)

LGK partnered with the Chamber of Commerce and VT Housing Finance Agency to ask candidates about a range of questions, has that available online. LGK, Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and Vermont Housing Finance Agency candidate questionnaire: <https://www.letsgrowkids.org/candidate-dashboard/>

Lisa R- Saturday in Montpelier, BIPOC-led Womxn & Femme March at the State House. Speakers, Music, & Food. If you can make it, or would like to donate, can send information.  
[https://www.facebook.com/events/618284875722402/?acontext=%7B%22event\\_action\\_history%22%3A%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search\\_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/618284875722402/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D%7D)

Sarah – Hubbard Park, queer cabaret supporting BIPOC spaces Saturday afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:23 p.m.**