

**Vermont Commission on Women
Criminal Legal System Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 17, 2021, | 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Teleconference**

Commissioners present: Ashley Messier (co-chair), Lisa Ryan (co-chair) Delaney Courcelle, Sarah Mell, Lisa Senecal

Commissioners absent: Kerin Durfee

Advisors present: Jessica Barquist of Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Lisa Falcone of Mercy Connections, Meredith Roberts of ANA Vermont

Staff present: Cary Brown, Lilly Talbert

Recording: Lilly Talbert & Sarah Mell

Presiding: Ashley Messier & Lisa Ryan

Meeting called to order at 12:07 pm.

Welcome & Introductions

Ashley led personal introductions, many members expressing gratitude for the day of sunshine and the upcoming time off.

History and Current Status of the Issue: Replacement of the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF) and related issues

Ashley provided an overview to the group about the current status of the planning efforts to replace CRCF, as well as the history of the issue and how we got here. Cary provided an overview from a VCW perspective.

Group Discussion and Review/Editing of Cary's Proposal for VCW gathering input re: CRCF replacement process

The group continued discussion of Cary's proposal for VCW gathering input.

Discussion points included logistics, community trust, and whether VCW is prepared to collect and represent the voices and experiences of those most impacted, and take a firm position to stand behind it, issuing recommendations and advocating for them even though it will ruffle feathers, as well as determining defined goals for the project and for each stakeholder group.

Meeting Closure

Next meeting scheduled for January 7, 2022 – 12:00 to 1:30pm

At that meeting the group may develop conversation goals by audience, starting with formerly incarcerated.

While the committee may continue to meet more often for event planning purposes, and may consider a new time and day for a standing meeting, as this time conflicts with the Women's Caucus which meets Fridays at noon.

The committee might inform the full Commission of our plans at the next meeting, both for buy-in purposes, to understand that it may be a longer-term project. Given its scope, other Commissioners might be inspired to engage in specific issues brought up, like housing, health, and for all.

**MOTION made by Ashley, seconded by Sarah:
To approve the [Dec. 3, 2021 minutes](#) as submitted.
Hearing no nays, the motion is unanimously passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.