



### Meeting Minutes

#### IN RESPONSE TO ADVERSE DRIVING CONDITIONS, MEETING SWITCHED TO SKYPE CONFERENCE CALL

January 9, 2019 | 9:30 a.m.

Center for Achievement in Public Service | 32 College St, Montpelier VT

**Commissioners participating via telephone/Skype:** Ed Adrian, Carol Buchdahl, Deborah Bucknam, Kellie Campbell, Charlotte Dennett, Kim Nolan, Lisa Senecal, Heidi Tringe

**Commissioners participating in person:** Mary Daly

**Commissioners absent:** Marcia Merrill, Lisa Carlson, Ruth Finn, Emilie Kornheiser, Marybeth Christie Redmond, Kerry Secrest

**Advisors participating via telephone/Skype:**

Ashley Michelle Fowler from Mercy Connections, Thea Wurzman with Congressman Welch's office

**Staff:** Cary Brown, Lilly Talbert

**Presiding:** Carol Buchdahl

**Recording:** Lilly Talbert

#### Welcome, Introductions

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

Carol welcomed participants by Skype and telephone. Due to a lack of quorum at the beginning of the meeting, voting on approving minutes and changing the April meeting date was postponed until later in the meeting.

#### Staff Updates

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Equal Pay Day, Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, is proposed for our postponed legislative lunch. This is a long-standing nationally-recognized day focusing on wage gap awareness, and each year VCW (with the League of Women Voters of VT and Business and Professional Women) work together as lead organizations on this at the State House. The day usually features a legislative resolution and a Governor's proclamation. Deb offered to speak to Governor's staff to reinforce the invitation to speak for this new lunch date.

Cary reported that staff would welcome assistance with tagging survey responses from our Listening Project statewide survey.

Cary spoke about issuing two Requests for Proposals relating to our project to prevent, address and respond to sexual harassment and work-related discrimination: the first, for resource collection and development; the second, for a public education and outreach campaign. We've received four proposals for each RFP, and they are currently being reviewed.

Cary reported on the work of our initiative, Change The Story (CTS) VT: Marybeth volunteered to join the CTS Steering committee as VCW's representative, taking over for Eileen. Marybeth has been part of CTS from the very beginning of this project: she was the VWW staff representative, and is well-versed in CTS material.

CTS next event is: [Breakfast of Champions](#), Tuesday, February 5th, 7:30 - 9:00 am at the UVM Davis Center with A Call to Men's Ted Bunch.

Lilly reported assisting the League of Women Voters with plans to commemorate and celebrate the 100th anniversary in 2020 of the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Kellie participates in this planning group as well as part. The fourth meeting of this statewide planning group is next Wednesday evening at the VT Historical Society's History Center's Community Room. This group is enjoying good engagement from individuals and organizations in a wide variety of fields – cultural and arts organizations, museums, historical societies and municipalities, to name a few. The group has formulated a mission (To commemorate and celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage and to acknowledge its incomplete legacy) and goals (To educate Vermonters about the history and outcomes of women's suffrage; and, to engage women in the ongoing quest for equal rights and citizenship.) The group will begin working on tasks via a subcommittee structure. All VCW Advisors and Commissioners are cordially invited to join in. Speak to Lilly for more information.

Cary addressed our budget. The Administration's budget target should arrive soon.

A new legislative intern, Linden Montague, starts next week. Kellie offered to coordinate with the Center for Women and Gender at St. Mike's to refer interested students.

Mileage reimbursement has increased to \$.58 per mile; that change is now reflected on the new form, downloadable from our Meetings website page.

Ashely Michelle Fowler, our Mercy Connections Advisor, announced she's moving on to work at Champlain College's Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Cary underscores current Senate appointment availability. Gretchen Bailey has resigned and we'll miss her dearly – she's contributed tremendous amounts of volunteer time, especially on helping to update The Legal Rights of Women in Vermont handbook. We'll miss her law expertise, advocacy and good humor. Her replacement will be appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees.

#### **Approval of December 2018 Meeting Minutes**

MOTION made by Lisa and seconded by Mary:

To approve the December 2018 minutes as submitted.

Roll call vote (because of Skype use)

Ed Adrian, YES; Carol Buchdahl, YES; Deborah Bucknam, YES; Kellie Campbell, YES; Charlotte Dennett, YES; Kim Nolan, YES; Lisa Senecal, YES; Heidi Tringe, YES; Mary Daly, YES

**MOTION APPROVED: Minutes adopted as presented.**

**Change VCW's April business meeting from Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Equal Pay Day) 2019 to accommodate new legislative lunch date**

**MOTION** made by Deb and seconded by Lisa:

To change April meeting date to correspond to new legislative lunch date and Equal Pay Day.

Roll call vote (because of Skype use)

Ed Adrian, YES; Carol Buchdahl, YES; Deborah Bucknam, YES; Kellie Campbell, YES; Charlotte Dennett, YES; Kim Nolan, YES; Lisa Senecal, YES; Heidi Tringe, YES; Mary Daly, NO

**MOTION APPROVED: April meeting date changed to Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:30 business meeting, followed by lunch from 12-1**

**Discussion: VT National Guard**

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Post poned until February meeting. Lisa Carlson is in the process of several conversations with contacts and she'll share some information on that in preparation for the next meeting.

**Discussion: Public Comment on Proposed Title IX Regulations**

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Cary spoke about the small group work complexity in considering this proposal. The group is made up of commissioners Carol, Lisa Senecal, Kim, and Deb, and also includes Cary, Catherine Welch of VWHE and Title IX Coordinator at St Michael's College, and Elizabeth Catlin, board member of Girls on the Run and attorney with Title IX expertise. Public Comment is due Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Lisa added the small group is a great cross-section of Commissioners and Advisors, many adding invaluable insight and information from a college campus perspective, noting both the improvements and concerns in the proposed regulations. Because there will not be another VCW meeting before the deadline, Lisa proposes the small group be allowed to finish work and prepare a public response.

**MOTION** made by Lisa Senecal and seconded by Charlotte Dennett:

To authorize the Title IX proposed regulations working group to prepare and finalize a public comment from the Vermont Commission on Women.

Roll call vote (because of Skype use)

Ed Adrian, YES; Carol Buchdahl, YES; Deborah Bucknam, YES; Kellie Campbell, YES; Charlotte Dennett, YES; Kim Nolan, YES; Lisa Senecal, YES; Heidi Tringe, YES; Mary Daly, ABSTAIN

**MOTION APPROVED**

Ed asks a question: do we circulate the statement to the Commissioners before the deadline? Cary will think about options to be transparent in the drafting process without conducting commission business outside of a meeting. Commissioners and advisors may join the working group at any point if they desire, and may attend the working group's meetings.

**Discussion: Incarcerated Women**

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Proposed to save this discussion for next month.

**Discussion: DCF Practices**

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Proposed to save this discussion for next month.

**MOTION** made by Deb and seconded by Mary:

To request our speakers on this topic submit a written outline of their position and their reform proposals before they present and that we request Larry Crist to speak.

Discussion on the motion included a focus on the need for diverse voices, on multiple sides of an issue, and to have as much information as possible to allow for a full view of the topic.

**Ed proposed a FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:** Encourage invitations to include people on different sides of the issue. Deb declined the amendment.

**MOTION AMENDED** by Deb and seconded by Mary:

To request speakers submit any materials ahead of time if they have them, and to invite Larry Crist to speak

Discussion on the motion focused on the need of a formal motion. Cary assured commissioners that she would invite speakers from diverse viewpoints and would request that they provide materials ahead of time if they have them.

**MOTION withdrawn** by Deb

### **Announcements**

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Kellie is now Chair of the Education Committee and would like new members of the committee. Cary will talk with Marcia about overall committee composition and we will review at the next meeting.

The question was raised whether VCW has a role to play in the current situation at HOPE Works. Cary responded that we'd take direction from our Advisory Council member the VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and she will talk with them.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.**