

State of Vermont**Vermont Commission on Women**

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Vermont Commission on Women**Meeting Minutes Friday, June 10, 2022 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.****109 State St, Montpelier VT****Commissioners present:**

Kiah Morris (Co-chair), Lisa Senecal (Co-chair), Delaney Courcelle, Sarah Mell, Heidi Tringe (remotely), Nancy Kaplan, Alex Hilliard (remotely), Hazel Brewster

Commissioners absent:

Kellie Campbell (Co-chair), Wendy Knight, Kim Nolan, Kerin Durfee, Ashley Messier

Advisors present:

Jessica Barquist, *Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence*
Katie Salina, *Let's Grow Kids (remotely)*

Guest: Shalini Suryanarayana**Staff:** Cary Brown, Lilly Talbert**Presiding:** Kiah Morris, Lisa Senecal**Recording:** Lilly Talbert**1. Meeting called to order at 9:37 a.m.****2. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plans | Guest: Shalini Suryanaryana, Education & Outreach, VT Office of Racial Equity**

Shalini introduced herself to the commission and gave a quick overview of some of the educational work that she will do with the Commission starting in September.

3. Welcome

Lisa welcomed all to the hybrid space and welcomed Alex Hilliard to the Commission.

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Lisa called for any changes, none proposed. Agenda passed.

5. Introductions

Lisa asked folks to introduce themselves and talk about why we came to the commission, and speak about one thing we're passionate about.

6. VCW Group Agreements for Meetings

Cary distilled our notes to a short list of essential items from the last discussion we had about Group Agreements and the group discussed them, making some suggestions for edits. We will approve a final version in September, and then reaffirm each September thereafter. Commissioners and advisors are invited to contribute additional thoughts by email between now and then.

6. Legislative and Staff Updates

Cary worked with Ellie's [legislative summary edition of VIEW](#) and gave a review of bills that didn't pass.

H.320 – would have prohibited the no re-hiring caveat for all other workplace discrimination, currently in law for sexual harassment cases. Passed in the House, and was on the Senate calendar on the very last day of the session.

H.329 - changing the standard for evaluating discrimination claims from severe or pervasive standard, statute of limitations; education folks had objections about how this would impact students/schools. Pieces of this bill were added to a misc. Judiciary bill in the Senate including the statute of limitations, and housing discrimination

protections now eliminates the “severe or pervasive” standard. Cary has taken part in conversations about how to approach this material in next session.

Cary said the Commission organizes its work through five priority subject areas: Health safety and civil rights, economic equity and security, education and human development, and leadership and public life, and accomplishes its work through public education, public policy, information and referral. Cary proposes creating a table integrating those and review and build it as a work organizing product for the next year. Set committees aligned with that.

Sarah and Cary are on a panel at UVM day of learning, Wednesday on gender equity.

Next weekend is Juneteenth and Kiah Morris is on a panel with Angela Davis.

Sarah announced that Loving Day is this Sunday – in Burlington at noon.

7. Committee Updates

The Economic Equity and Security committee is interested in exploring ways to connect with EPC signers around use of the LEEP toolkit. This would involve making contact with the signers. Some have downloaded the toolkit and some haven't. We would ask, if they've used it, if not what might be helpful? Commissioners could take that on in whatever way would work for them. Cary will be in touch with more specific plans over the summer.

The Women in the Criminal Legal System committee had a vision for community conversations, gathering useful public information that others don't have. These were virtual but could now be in-person events in different parts of the state. More updates will be coming over the summer.

Cary let the new Commissioners know that they will have the opportunity to join committees in September.

8. Updates and announcements

Meeting Adjourned at 12:22 p.m.