

# Vermont Commission on Women

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Center for Achievement in Public Service, VT Department of Human Resources

32 College St, Montpelier VT

### Commissioners present:

Lisa Senecal (Chair), Ed Adrian, Nancy Brooks, Kellie Campbell (via Skype), Lisa Carlson, Mary Daly, Charlotte Dennett, Erica Hare, Marcia Merrill, Kim Nolan (via Skype), Lisa Ryan, Heidi Tringe

### Commissioners absent:

Emilie Kornheiser, Marybeth Christie Redmond, Kerry Secrest

### Advisors present:

Meredith Roberts of ANA-Vermont  
Joanne Nelson of Mercy Connections (via Skype)  
Diane Derby of U.S. Senator Leahy's Office  
Karen Tronsgard-Scott of Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence  
Alison Lamagna of Vermont Works for Women (via Skype)

**Guests:** Aly Johnson-Kurts of Change The Story VT

**Staff:** Cary Brown, Hannah Lane, Lilly Talbert

**Presiding:** Lisa Senecal

**Recording:** Hannah Lane

## 1. Welcome/Introductions

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Lisa welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

## 2. Approval of January & February Meeting Minutes

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### Approval of January 2020 Minutes

**MOTION** made by **Lisa Ryan**, seconded by **Heidi**:

To approve the January 2020 minutes as submitted.

**MOTION APPROVED. Adopted as presented.**

### Approval of February 2020 Minutes

**MOTION** made by **Erica**, seconded by **Lisa Ryan**:

To approve the February 2020 minutes as submitted.

**MOTION APPROVED. Adopted as presented.**

### **3. Discussion of women in corrections, with updates from CRCF visit - Lisa**

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A group of Commissioners, Staff, Interns, and Legislators from the Women’s Caucus visited Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility on Monday. They met with a group of incarcerated women for 1 hour, and then with leadership, including Theresa Stone, Superintendent. A discussion was held about what was learned on the visit.

Next steps:

- Speak with Commissioner Baker – Lisa Ryan is happy to reach out to him, she knows him through Rutland
- Should we share this with the Commissioner first? Yes.
- Share this document with VCW, Women’s Caucus, Superintendent, Commissioner

#### **Forming an Ad-hoc Committee**

**MOTION** made by **Marcia**, seconded by **Charlotte**:

To form an ADHOC committee to look into a position paper by VCW, and to see what form that would take.

Discussion: Do we need a new Committee? Lisa Ryan’s Civil & Legal Rights committee could handle this. Do they need a consultant/facilitator to help support communications?

#### **MOTION WITHDRAWN WITH CONSENT OF THE SECOND.**

Lisa Ryan and the Civil Rights Committee will discuss this and report back to the full Commission.

### **4. Listening Project Report and recommendations**

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Cary passed around Anna’s executive summary, and two-pagers on specific issues. A discussion was held soliciting thoughts about the latest version, and especially the recommendations at the end.

### **5. Staff updates**

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Lilly sent out an email about upcoming events. We’ve talked about how to manage public events in light of COVID-19. We’ve decided to move Lead the Way on Equal Pay to a webinar. CTS is going to work with us on the tech side. We can record it. We’ll be working on organizing the details on that.

We’ll be discussing changes to Equal Pay Day on 3/31.

We’re looking at getting speaker extensions to help the conference phones. Our next VCW meeting may be completely virtual. We are going to a new system for remote calls. We’re moving from Skype to Microsoft Teams. Hopefully that will work well, and if not, we may need to think about other creative options.

Spousal maintenance is being considered again by Senate Judiciary. They are considering automatically terminating maintenance on the remarriage of the payee.

Equal Pay Compact Event has generated 23 new signers, and we're over 200 now. Shout outs to Nancy, Kellie, the Lisas, and Heidi for going the extra mile. 31 folks have signed up for the event, and we're hoping to transition them to the webinar.

Kudos to Lilly for her great work on this event.

## 6. Announcements

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Nurses Legislative Day is 4/21/20.

ElevateHer Legislative Update event is tonight at the State House. Cary will be speaking about legislation impacting women, with Sen. Becca Balint and Rep. Pattie McCoy.

Charlotte announced that her new book, *The Crash of Flight 3804*, will be published in a month. Book events impacted by COVID-19. Find her on Facebook to follow this.

Hannah shared that the [Marshall Project launched a new series, The Zo](#), looking at the experience of incarcerated people, and people might find it interesting in light of our ongoing conversations about incarcerated women.

Rutland Women Work and Wages event in Rutland is happening May 11 tentatively at the Merchant Hall Theater from 9 -11. One of three additional report tour dates, all of whose dates are tentative now in light of COVID-19. Upper Valley on May 4, Saint Johnsbury April 6.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 p.m.**