



State of Vermont
Vermont Commission on Women
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Vermont Commission on Women Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 14, 2022 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Pavilion Building, 4th floor conference room, 109 State St, Montpelier, VT

Commissioners present:

Kiah Morris (Co-chair), Lisa Senecal (Co-chair), Hazel Brewster, Kellie Campbell, Alex Hilliard, Nancy Kaplan (remotely), Wendy Knight (remotely), Sarah Mell, Ashley Messier (remotely), Kim Nolan (remotely)

Commissioners absent:

Heidi Tringe

Advisors present:

Jessica Barquist, VT Network
Katie Salina, Let's Grow Kids

Guests: Meghan Tedder, Evernorth

Ella Darcy, Montpelier High School Intern

Staff: Cary Brown, Ellie Lane, Lilly Talbert

Presiding: Lisa Senecal

Recording: Ellie Lane

1. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:41 a.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion made by Kellie, seconded by Sarah
To approve the meeting agenda as submitted.
Unanimously approved, agenda approved.

3. Review Group Agreements

The group took a minute to review the group agreements.

4. Approval of meeting minutes of September 2022

Motion made by Kellie, seconded by Sarah
To approve the September 2022 meeting minutes as submitted.
Unanimously approved, minutes approved.

5. Introductions

Lisa asked the group to introduce themselves.

6. Updates and announcements

On October 26th the Vermont Network is hosting an event on bridging reproductive justice and gender violence.

7. VCW website update

Lilly updated Commissioners about her progress on updating VCW's website and showed the group the new site in progress. Commissioners are welcome to offer feedback to Lilly.

8. Staff updates

Ella Darcy, a Montpelier High School CBL student working with Lilly, presented data about what VCW heard from Women Can Do attendees last Thursday, which more than 200 students from 12 of 14 counties attending. When asked what public policy priorities they had, reproductive rights, economic justice, and harassment and bullying were common responses.

Kellie talked about her experience at Women Can Do and shared that she thinks there was a lot of energy if we could think about how to connect and work with young Vermonters. Kellie also expressed thanks and appreciation to Vermont Works for Women for putting together such a great event.

Cary updated the group about a recent meeting with the Department of Corrections and partners about the plan to replace the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility.

Cary also updated the group about the Vermont National Guard. There was a recent article in the Vermont Digger. She has met with Doris Sumner, and she is very interested in a proposal that's been on the table to have a new gender equity position that would report to the Governor and could monitor whether the things that are supposed to be happening are.

Cary updated the group about a recent news story about a trans student at Randolph Union High School who was bullied in the locker room, and shared that VCW signed onto a letter sent by Outright Vermont to WCAX's poor reporting.

Ellie passed around a snack sign-up form, and also shared with Commissioners that they will be getting parking permits for state parking lots.

9. Committees

Cary shared the proposed VCW committees, based on discussion and feedback received last meeting. The proposal is:

- Health Equity Committee
- Workplace Equity & Security Committee
- Housing and Caregiving Committee

Motion made by Kellie, seconded by Hazel,
To approve the three committees for FY23 as proposed.

Unanimously approved, the Committees are formed.

Commissioners shared their preference for Committee assignments.

Health Equity Committee:

Alex
Hazel
Sarah
Nancy

Workplace Equity & Security Committee:

Kim
Kellie
Heidi

Housing and Caregiving Committee:

Kiah, and is interested in no-cause evictions
Ashley
Kellie
Lisa
Katie Salina – Advisor

Staff will reach out to schedule a meeting. We'll need to think about how wants to be a chair. Who is the conscience of the group to make sure we keep in mind equity issues and unheard voices? Committee meetings are public meetings and need to be warned and comply with open meeting law.

10. Racial equity work

Kiah led the group in a racial equity conversation.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:06 p.m.