

Vermont Commission on Women Economic Equity & Security Committee
May 3rd, 2018
Meeting minutes

Present (via phone): Melinda Moulton (chair), Cary Brown, Marybeth Redmond, Emilie Kornheiser
Absent: Ashley Michelle Fowler, Charlotte Dennett, Colin Ryan, Jen Oldham, Jessica Nordhaus, Kevin Veller, Liz Gamache, Marcia Merrill, Meg Smith

Agenda

1. Survey results so far
2. Pushing the survey out to all corners of the state
3. Processing and analyzing survey results
4. One-on-one meetings by commissioners

We opened the meeting by discussing the low attendance at these meetings lately, and it was suggested that we reach out to the Commission and the Advisory Council again to request stronger participation from individuals who can commit to being on these once-a-month calls always scheduled for the 1st Thursday of each month at 8 a.m.

1. Survey results so far

We have received 465 responses out of a 5,000 goal with robust responses from survey participants. 10% participation in the first month is impressive.

2. Pushing the survey out to all corners of the state

We talked about ideas for distributing the survey, including:

- Cary suggested we have a “survey box” where folks can insert the completed survey - locations like Country Stores, Libraries, Town Halls, Municipal Buildings, Doctor’s Offices – the survey box would then be collected by the Commissioner of that town and sent to the Commission in Montpelier.
- Front Porch Forum posts – mapping out where all the FPF locations in the state are, and matching that up to commissioners, and asking them all to post in their local ones. Where there are no commissioners, we can request that others (legislators, e.g., which Marybeth has already done) post on our behalf
- Posters with tear-offs that have the survey link on them
- Letters to the editor
- Lilly will create language that advisors and other organizations can use in newsletters to spread the word
- Emilie mentioned that each county has an Economic Services office and she is willing to do the communication with each of those offices to start the process of placing the survey in their waiting rooms.
- Melinda proposed the idea of attending large fairs in the state this summer, such as the Champlain Valley Fair and the Tunbridge Fair, as a way of getting the survey to a wider audience.

We will take a moment at our May meeting – for the Commissioners and Advisors to share what they have done so far and some of their ideas to ensure the survey is widely distributed.

3. Processing and analyzing survey results

The Commission has hired a summer intern to help with the process of entering and categorizing all the information, and if any one wishes to help with this work, please let Cary know.

Additionally, it was suggested that the Commission consider seeking a graduate student who can help with the more highly skilled tasks of survey analysis. Emilie will consult with Senator Balint to ask for recommendations.

4. One-on-one meetings by commissioners (and public forums)

Marybeth encouraged us to use the survey as an interview template for our one-on-one listening meetings. Taking good notes is critical and transcribing them and getting our notes to the Commission office in a timely manner is important.

It was decided that we will conduct only 3 regional public forums in the coming months, and that we will ask for a chair or co-chairs to lead these events in each region. Cary will connect with Commissioners who missed the April meeting to assign them to a public forum team, as well as confirming chairs/co-chairs of the 3 forums – before the Commission meeting in May. We will have time to meet in these public forum planning teams during the next Commission meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 7, 8:00 a.m. via conference call (call-in info to be sent out)