

**DRAFT Minutes of Vermont Child Poverty Council
Meeting of Full Council
Room 10**

Meeting Date: 6/30/16, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Members in Attendance

Representative Jill Krowinski, Chair
Representative Diane Lanpher
Representative David Sharpe
Senator Claire Ayer
Hal Cohen, Commissioner, Agency of Human Services
Pam Dalley, Department for Children and Families, designee for Commissioner Schatz
Michelle Faye, Voices for Vermont's Children, designee for Carlen Finn
Amy Fowler, Deputy Commissioner, Agency of Education
Dr. Breena Holmes, Department of Health
Karen Lafayette, Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
Sandy Paritz, Vermont Legal Aid, designee for Jean Murray

Members Absent

Senator John Campbell
Senator Ann Cummings
Carlen Finn, Voices for Vermont's Children
Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association
Jean Murray, Vermont Legal Aid
Annie Noonan, Commissioner, Department of Labor
Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department for Children and Families

Other Participants

Paul Dragon, Agency of Human Services
Matt Levin, Vermont Early Childhood Alliance
Tom Little, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
Erhard Mahnke, Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Judy Rex, Department for Children and Families
Shana Trombley, Governor's Office
Jennifer Carbee and Marjorie Zunder, Office of Legislative Council

Topics Discussed

○ **Welcome and Introductions**

Rep. Krowinski asked the Council to consider possible changes to its subcommittee structure and scheduled time for member feedback later in the meeting.

Rep. Krowinski postponed election of a Council chair until later in the meeting, adding that she was willing to continue as chair, but would welcome a co-chair or vice-chair.

- **Review of 2016 Legislative Initiatives Impacting Child Poverty**

Jennifer Carbee, Legislative Counsel, walked through the document, *Legislative Update on Council's 2015 Recommendations*. Additions were suggested and noted for a revised document.

- **Future Topics for the Council to consider**

Council members offered possible topics that impact child poverty including: screening for substance abuse, children experiencing substance abuse, housing, incarceration and the judicial system, Medicaid eligibility and related IT systems, increasing funds to LIHEAP and weatherization programs, Reach Up, increasing funds for job training, updates from the Dept. of Labor, child care, Stalled at the Start report (access to high quality infant and childcare), Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care, home visiting, afterschool programs, chronic school absenteeism (often caused by trauma at home), and the Every Student Succeeds Act.

- **Vermont Universal Children's Higher Education Savings Account Program**

Shana Trombley, Governor's Office, gave an update of the work of the Vermont Universal Children's Higher Education Savings Account Program Fund Advisory Committee.

Tom Little, Vice-President and General Counsel, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, commented further on supports for first generation and low-income college students.

- **Future Topics for the Council to consider (continued)**

In addition to suggesting that future Council meetings be organized by topic, members also suggested the following topics for future meetings: Head Start partnering with Act 166 programs, Building Bright Futures programs, exclusionary discipline of non-white and disabled students, working to end homelessness, and the impacts of homelessness on children's health.

- **Future of Council Subcommittees**

Members suggested continuing this work outside of Council meetings

- **Motions**

Rep. Sharpe nominated Rep. Krowinski for Council Chair. Sen. Ayer nominated Rep. Lanpher for Council Co-chair. Passed by voice vote.

- **Adjournment** at noon

Minutes prepared by Marjorie Zunder, Legislative Council