

DRAFT Minutes of Vermont Child Poverty Council
Meeting of Full Council
Room 10
Meeting Date: 10/20/16, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Members in Attendance

Representative Jill Krowinski, Co-Chair
Representative Diane Lanpher, Co-Chair
Representative David Sharpe
Mathew Barewicz, designee for Commissioner Annie Noonan
Laura Bernard, designee for Dr. Breena Holmes
Paul Dragon, designee for Secretary Cohen
Carlen Finn, Voices for Vermont's Children
Karen Lafayette, Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
Sandra Paritz, designee for Jean Murray
Deb Quackenbush, designee for Dr. Amy Fowler
Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department for Children and Families

Members Absent

Senator Claire Ayer
Senator John Campbell
Senator Ann Cummings
Hal Cohen, Secretary, Agency of Human Services
Dr. Amy Fowler, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Education
Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association
Dr. Breena Holmes, Department of Health
Jean Murray, Vermont Legal Aid
Annie Noonan, Commissioner, Department of Labor

Other Participants

Brandyn Arnold, Agency of Human Services
Kelly Ault, Vermont Early Childhood Alliance
Sean Brown, Department for Children and Families
Kara Casey, Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Angus Chaney, Agency of Human Services
Alexa Collesicles, Agency of Human Services
Pam Dalley, Department for Children and Families
Jessa Denton, Reach Up
Richard Donahey, Department for Children and Families
Rex Garofano, Department for Children and Families
Jennifer Hollar, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Anore Horton, Hunger Free Vermont
Theresa Kehne, Agency of Human Services
Damien Leonard, Legislative Council
Eric Lovey, Office of the Speaker of the House

Erhard Mahnke, Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Eileen Nooney, Capstone
Erin Oalican, Reach Up
Sarah Phillips, Department for Children and Families
Bethany Pombar, Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs
Mark Redmond, Spectrum Youth and Family Services
Judy Rex, Department for Children and Families
Drusilla Roessle, Agency of Human Services
Amy Shollenberger, Action Circles
Lori Wright, Reach Up
Catherine McLinn and Marjorie Zunder, Legislative Council

Topics Discussed

o Results Based Accountability

Drusilla Roessle gave a ~~powerpoint~~ presentation on population outcomes and performance ~~accountability measures~~ in the context of Vermont's programs impacting child poverty ~~programs~~.

o Housing and Homelessness

Erhard Mahnke ~~testified~~ provided an overview of housing and homelessness in Vermont ~~and the related programs~~. He outlined ~~current successes~~ successful initiatives and ~~ongoing State challenges~~ future needs of these programs.

o Roadmap for Ending Homelessness Steering Committee

Angus Chaney identified ~~and described existing some of the~~ programs to support people ~~who in~~ need ~~of~~ housing ~~that have been undertaken by the Agency of Human Services in Vermont~~. Jennifer Hollar gave an update on the work of the Roadmap for Ending Homelessness Steering Committee.

o Youth Homelessness

Mark Redmond described the services and programs of Spectrum Youth and Family Services. Bethany Pombar described the services of the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs along with specific funding concerns and other needs of homeless youth.

o Reach Up – Moving Families Out of Poverty

Erin Oalican described the services provided by Reach Up to meet the challenges ~~facing participant~~ experienced by low-income families. She also ~~explained~~ described the Post-Secondary Education program. A current and former Reach Up client each described their experience with the program. Eileen Nooney

described the transportation ~~challenges~~ challenges-of-facig Vermonters in poverty. ~~Lori Wright, a former participant, and Jessa Denton, currently participating in the Post-Secondary Education program, testified on their experience with the program.~~

o **Housing and Economic Supports**

Richard Donahey described the ~~expanded emergency housing programs of the Department for Children and Families, including a new partnership with the Office of Economic Opportunities~~ General Assistance Emergency Housing Program. Sarah Phillips described the trends in Vermont related to emergency shelter use and programs to provide this assistance for homeless Vermonters.

o **Council Discussion and Next Steps Recommendations**

~~• Convene Council subcommittees to draft recommendations related to each of the topics of testimony before the Council this year. Reps. Krowinski and Lanpher offered to compile this draft, if possible for the next Council meeting.~~

• Provide more ~~funding for~~ resources to the Post-Secondary Education program.

• ~~Give preference, in the work of the Council, to areas that are currently not being emphasized by other groups/agencies. In particular, work on~~ Focus the Council's work on ~~transportation needs rather than child care or housing needs and Reach Up~~

• Raise Reach Up grants to meet the actual needs of families

• ~~Support the two generation approach in Reach Up.~~

~~• Help people obtain the education required for higher level employment.~~

• ~~De-emphasize raising the minimum wage since it will not necessarily solve the whole problem of poverty as a variety of services are needed.~~

• ~~Support Reach Up as a foundational program to reduce poverty.~~

• ~~Recognize that providing more affordable housing is basic to reducing poverty.~~

• ~~Follow the Spectrum model for service to homeless youth in other parts of Vermont.~~

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- Provide more appropriate counseling through Reach Up, i.e. employment vs. academic program planning.

- Address ~~the disincentive within the Post-Secondary Education grants for participants to be employed~~ any benefit cliffs embedded in the Reach Up program

- **Motions**

No motions were offered.

- **Adjournment** at 12:03 PM

Minutes prepared by Marjorie Zunder, Legislative Council