

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

Meeting Date: 11/17/16, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Members in Attendance

Representative Diane Lanpher, Co-Chair
Representative David Sharpe
Senator Claire Ayer
Laura Bernard, designee for Dr. Breena Holmes
Hal Cohen, Secretary, Agency of Human Services
Chris Curtis, designee for Jean Murray
Carlen Finn, Voices for Vermont's Children
Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association
Karen Lafayette, Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
Annie Noonan, Commissioner, Department of Labor
Deb Quackenbush, designee for Dr. Amy Fowler
Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department for Children and Families

Members Absent

Representative Jill Krowinski, Co-Chair
Senator John Campbell
Senator Ann Cummings
Dr. Amy Fowler, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Education
Dr. Breena Holmes, Department of Health
Jean Murray, Vermont Legal Aid

Other Participants

Sean Brown, Department for Children and Families
Sally Borden, KidSafe Collaborative
Pam Dalley, Agency of Human Services
Lisa Estivill, Washington County Mental Health Services
Courtney Farrell, Lund Family Center
Holly Morehouse, Vermont Afterschool
Erin Oalican, Reach Up
Laurel Omland, Department of Mental Health
Kaitlin Ostrander, University of Vermont Children's Hospital
Catherine Simonson, Howard Center
Rich Smith, Laraway Youth and Family Services
Liz Sortino, Action Circles
Cynthia Thomas, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, Department of Health
Catherine McLinn and Marjorie Zunder, Legislative Council

Topics Discussed

○ **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**

Laurel Omland, Operations Chief, Child, Adolescent and Family Unit, Department of Mental Health, described the results of adverse childhood experiences related to families and the children's mental health system of care in Vermont.

Cynthia Thomas, Director, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, Department of Health, described providers of substance abuse and early intervention services.

Catherine Simonson, Chief Client Services Officer, Howard Center, described the programs offered by Howard Center, including the various levels of need experienced by clients and outcome data.

Courtney Farrell, Assistant Director of Residential and Community Services, Lund Family Center, described numerous programs offered by the Lund Family Center, including a residential program for opioid-addicted mothers and their children.

Rich Smith, Backpack Director, Laraway Youth and Family Services, gave an overview of Laraway and then described its many initiatives, including school based supports.

Sally Borden, Executive Director, KidSafe Collaborative, described the CHARM (Children of Recovering Mothers) collaborative, which coordinates care for pregnant and postpartum women

Lisa Estivill, Director of Therapeutic Education/After School Services, Washington County Mental Health Services, described the financial and physical safety challenges experienced by members of Washington County Mental Health Services' staff working with high-risk adolescents.

○ **Reach Up – Moving Families Out of Poverty**

Erin Oalican, Department for Children and Families, continued her testimony on the Post Secondary Education (PSE) program, including reasons for its lower participation rate during the past fiscal year. She described proposed rule changes that would enable more Reach Up participants to qualify for eligibility in PSE.

○ **Council Discussion and Recommendations**

- The Council tabled this discussion because witness testimony filled the meeting time. Instead, Council members were asked to submit their comments on the draft Council recommendations to Council Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs will forward changes to Catherine McLinn.

- It was suggested that providing more affordable housing be a primary recommendation from the Council.

- **Motions**

No motions were offered.

- **Adjournment** at 12:16 PM.

- The next meeting of the Council will be held December 15, 2016, 9 AM to 12 PM, in room 10 at the State House.

Minutes prepared by Marjorie Zunder, Legislative Council