



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHILD  
POVERTY AND STRENGTHENING  
FAMILIES

August 23, 2018  
9:30am-11:30am  
Room 10

**MINUTES**

**Legislative Members Present:** Representative Diane Lanpher, Representative Lawrence Cupoli, Senator Dick McCormack, Senator David Soucy, and Representative Theresa Wood

**Other Members Present:** Carlen Finn, Voices for Vermont Children; Jean Murray, VT Legal Aid; Katie Ballard, VT Coalition for Disability Rights; Ken Schatz, Department for Children and Families; Amy Fowler, Agency of Education; Jenna O'Farrell, Northeast Kingdom Community Action; Karen Lafayette, VT Low Income Advocacy Council; and Erhard Mahnke, VT Affordable Housing Coalition

**Staff Present:** Katie McLinn, Office of Legislative Council; Damien Leonard, Office of Legislative Council; and Mike Ferrant, Office of Legislative Council

- The meeting was called to order by Rep. Theresa Wood, as the representative of the House Human Services Committee, at 9:30am.
- Members introduced themselves and identified their affiliations. As the Council consists of 15 voting members, a quorum was established with more than 8 members present.
- A motion was made to elect Representative Diane Lanpher as Chair and Senator Debbie Ingram as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded and unanimously agreed upon by all members.
- Katie McLinn, Legislative Counsel, began with a review of [Act 207](#) of 2018, an act relating to the Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families, by highlighting where the Advisory Council's charge differed from the charge of the previously existing Vermont Child Poverty Council. Key differences outlined included Advisory Council membership, responsibilities, and work products.
- Katie McLinn, Legislative Counsel, reviewed the recommendations in the 2017 Vermont Child Poverty Council [report](#) and led a discussion on responsive legislative activities occurring in 2018.
- Damien Leonard, Legislative Counsel, reviewed S.40, an act relating to increasing the minimum wage, and H.196, an act relating to paid family leave, both of which were both

vetoed by the Governor. Increasing the minimum wage and requiring paid family leave had been priorities of the previously existing Vermont Child Poverty Council.

- Kathy Hentcy, Mental Health & Health Care Integration Director, Department of Mental Health, updated the Advisory Council on the Agency of Human Service's work to date on [childhood trauma](#) and adverse childhood experiences. Her presentation included an overview of the Agency's Building Flourishing Communities program.
- Members of the Advisory Council discussed future meeting dates as well as locations for the mandatory off-site meeting. Some Advisory Council members expressed a preference for holding of the off-site meeting in a community, especially affected by childhood poverty. Members also expressed a preference for meeting during the evening to maximize participation among community members. The St. Johnsbury Academy was suggested as a possible location for the off-site meeting and the Committee Assistant (Mike Ferrant) was tasked with looking into the availability of that venue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Ferrant  
Committee Assistant  
Office of Legislative Council