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

REP. DIANE LANPHER, CHAIR  
SEN. DEBBIE INGRAM, VICE CHAIR  
REP. LAWRENCE CUPOLI  
SEN. DICK MCCORMACK  
SEN. DAVID SOUCY  
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ENA BACKUS  
ERHARD MAHNKE  
JENNA O'FARRELL  
KAREN LAFAYETTE  
KATIE BALLARD  
KYLE DODSON  
SANDY PARITZ  
SARAH PHILLIPS  
STACIE ROULEAU

September 20, 2018  
9:30am-11:30am  
Room 10

**MINUTES (draft)**

**Legislative Members Present:** Representative Diane Lanpher (Chair), Senator Debbie Ingram (Vice Chair), Representative Lawrence Cupoli, Senator Dick McCormack, and Senator David Soucy

**Other Members Present:** Sandy Paritz, *VT Legal Aid*; Sarah Phillips, *Department for Children and Families*; Jenna O'Farrell, *Northeast Kingdom Community Action*; Karen Lafayette, *VT Low Income Advocacy Council*; Kyle Dodson, *VT Business Roundtable*; Breena Holmes, *Department of Health*; Colleen Hale, *Department of Labor*; Ena Backus, *Agency of Human Services*; Stacie Rouleau, *K-12 Public Education delivery system*; and Erhard Mahnke, *VT Affordable Housing Coalition*

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

- The meeting was called to order by Rep. Diane Lanpher, as Chair of the Council, at 9:30am.
- New 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 approve the minutes of the August 23, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded and the approval vote was unanimous.
- Reeva Murphy, *Deputy Commissioner for the Child Development Division of Department for Children and Families* and Aly Richards, *Executive Director for Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children* gave the Council an update on Child Care and CCFAP. Their written testimony is located [here](#).
- Dru Roessle, *Director of Performance Improvement for the Agency of Human Services* reviewed the [AHS Community Profiles](#) program as well as poverty levels by county in the State of Vermont. She then gave the Council a tour of how to navigate AHS Community Profiles [website](#) and access the data located in it.

- Katie McLinn, Legislative Counsel, reviewed the NCSL Resources on Child Poverty Benchmarks. There are [two benchmarks in Act 207](#) that were already present and should be evaluated at the five year mark of the Council's ten year tenure:
  - (i) the number and percentage of children living in families at 50 percent, 100 percent, and 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and
  - (ii) the number and percentage of children living in families paying more than 30 percent of their cash income for housing and related expenses.
- Members of the Advisory Council discussed the mandatory off-site meeting location and date. The Committee Assistant will send out a Doodle Poll for the Council to complete, which will identify what date the Council can meet off-site. The location of NEKCA in St. Johnsbury seemed particularly attractive to the Council, as it resides in the Northeast Kingdom, which is the area of Vermont with the highest poverty rate and it is easily accessible from most locations. The Council will determine date and location of the off-site meeting by the next Council meeting on October 25th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Ferrant  
Committee Assistant  
Office of Legislative Council