

DRAFT Minutes of Vermont Child Poverty Council
Room 10
Meeting Date 9/21/2017 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Members in Attendance

Senator Debbie Ingram, Co-chair
Representative Diane Lanpher, Co-chair
Senator Dick McCormack
Representative David Sharpe
Representative Theresa Wood
Mathew Barewicz, Department of Labor
Paul Dragon, Agency of Human Services
Carlen Finn, Voices for Vermont Children
Dr. Amy Fowler, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education
Dr. Breena Holmes, Vermont Department of Health
Karen LaFayette, Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
Sandy Paritz, Vermont Legal Aid
Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families

Members Absent

Senator Philip Baruth

Others

Faye Conte
Kathy Hentcy
Jaclyn Holden
Sarah Kenney
Nolan Langwell
Matt Levin
Erhard Mahnke
Fran Rathke
Scott Rathke
Dru Roessle
Falko Schilling
Amy Shollenberger

Topics Discussed

- **Approval of Minutes**

Amy Fowler moved to approve the 8.22.17 minutes. Mat Barewicz seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- **Building Resilience for Children Experience Adverse Childhood Events**

Paul Dragon reviewed the [Act 43 Final Report](#) on Building Resilience for Individuals experiencing Adverse Childhood Events.

Kathy Hentcy reported on recent findings and work of the Department of Mental Health regarding [Building Flourishing Communities](#).

Amy Fowler reviewed the [Agency of Education's Response to Act 43](#).

- **How do other states structure legislative child poverty initiatives?**

Rochelle Finzel of the National Conference of State Legislatures reviewed the poverty reduction initiatives and working groups established in other states.

- **Council's Role**

Dru Roessele facilitated a conversation about the Council's Role answering the following questions:

What Do we Want:

- Thriving families and children
- Eliminate poverty
- Resilient communities, families, individuals
- Self-sufficiency – everyone has the support to thrive; ability to thrive

What does that look like:

- Upward mobility
- Stronger middle class
- Quality of life at all levels
- Financial stability for children
- Employment, wages
- Access to resources and service/support
- Education of adults and kids
- Skills and opportunities
- Resilience
- Factors that promote resilience
- Connection
- Basic needs

(What problem are we trying to solve? – Root causes – understanding and develop)

What is our role:

- Set goals/targets
- Monitor/learn from and adjust in relation to activities done
- Make recommendations to test a theory regarding what will make a measurable impact
- Invest in recommendations to implement and monitor
- Focus on children in poverty – drawing out experience of/ focus on root causes
- Getting real – asking questions
- To what extent do our systems promote resilience? Agency/skills?
- To what extent do our policies harm or stress or compound poverty – knit together
- How adaptive/responsive are our systems

Approach:

- Intergenerational
- Mixed member representation
- Population based
- Specific and measurable
- System focus, holistic (across sectors)
- Action oriented and transparent – active in communities
- “Closing the gap”
- Highest leverage points
- Kids today, kids long-term, kids tomorrow
- Common language

Who are our partners/assets:

- All legislative committees
- Executive leadership
- Study/special committees
- Governor Scott – “Vulnerable” Pivot, RBA, Lean, children in poverty
- Let’s Grow Kids
- Building Bright Futures
- After School Alliance
- AHS: VDH, DCF, DMH, AOE, DOL
- Voices for Vermont’s Children
- CAPS Agencies
- Vermont Family Network
- Hunger Free Vermont
- Parent Child Centers

● **Committee Discussion**

Members were asked to expect to provide feedback to the chairs and committee staff through a priority ranking of recommendations that received no or limited legislative action for possible inclusion in the 2017 report. New ideas will also be considered. The homework is due October 9, 2017.

● **Adjournment**