

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

Meeting Date: 12/10/15, ~10:20 AM – 12:00 PM

Members in Attendance

Representative Jill Krowinski, Chair
Senator Claire Ayer
Paul Dragon, Agency of Human Services
Carlen Finn, Voices for Vermont's Children
Breena Holmes, Vermont Department of Health
Karen Lafayette, Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
Jean Murray, Vermont Legal Aid
Annie Noonan, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Labor

Members Absent

Senator John Campbell
Senator Ann Cummings
Representative Johannah Donovan
Amy Fowler, Agency of Education
Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association
Representative Diane Lanpher
Harry Chen, Department of Health

Other Participants

Ginny Burley, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Hal Cohen, Agency of Human Services
Michelle Faye, Voices for Vermont's Children
Andre Horton, Hunger Free Vermont
Matt Levin, Vermont Early Childhood Alliance
Erhard Mahnke, Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Holly Morehouse, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Mary Morehouse, visitor
Barbara Russ, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Amy Shollenberger, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Katie McLinn and Marjorie Zunder, Legislative Council

Topics Discussed

- Testimony on Expanded Learning Opportunities from Holly Morehouse, Executive Director, Vermont Afterschool, Inc. (handout and link to slides on Council web page)
- Health and Nutrition Subcommittee
 - Support for dental therapists
 - Support for earned sick leave
 - IT system improvement for universal meals program in schools, leading to integrated eligibility systems using currently available but unused federal dollar, retaining current State plan

- Education and Childcare Subcommittee
 - Ensure that the Universal Children’s Savings Accounts legislation moves forward
 - Ensure that school discipline is administered fairly
 - Ensure that students are safe from bullying and harassment
 - Support Whole Service Schools and its implementation with collaboration between AHS and AOE, and schedule the Council to hear a report on progress
 - Equalize expanded learning opportunities statewide with funding at the \$2.5 million level
- Economic Security and Empowerment Subcommittee
 - Incrementally increase investment in childcare financial assistance
 - Incrementally increase investment in transportation to work financial assistance
 - Support the driver restoration program statewide, tying fines to income
 - Repeal cuts to Reach up for families with someone receiving disability benefits
 - Support earned sick leave
- Housing and Homelessness Subcommittee
 - Increase the investment in the back rent program
 - Support pathways out of poverty recommendations
 - Endorse H.211 and advocate for its passage by the Legislature Full Council recommendations
 - Top priority: Earned sick leave
 - Support for dental therapists
 - Requirement that all Vermont agencies and recipients of State funds share responsibility for addressing child poverty and for improving the financial stability and well-being of all of Vermont’s children
 - Support expanded learning opportunities for students statewide with funding of \$2.5 million

Motions

No motions were made during the meeting.

Minutes prepared by Marjorie Zunder, Legislative Council