

Minutes of Economic Security and Empowerment Subcommittee of the Child Poverty Council

Meeting Date: 10/16/15, 11:15 – 12:00

Subcommittee Members Present:

Karen Lafayette, Subcommittee Chair
Carlen Finn, Voices for Vermont's Children
Mathew Barewicz for Annie Noonan, Department of Labor
Sen. Claire Ayer, Vermont General Assembly

Topics Discussed

The subcommittee discussed the following:

- potential mechanisms for including consideration of child poverty in all government action, akin to the “health in all policies” approach, including a check-off box for all rules submitted by State agencies and for grant applications
- recommendations of the Governor’s Pathways from Poverty Economic Security and Empowerment Subcommittee, and which recommendations the Child Poverty Council subcommittee wishes to endorse and prioritize
- issues relating to better economic opportunity for parents of children in poverty; maintain a social safety net, access to childcare, transportation
- need to reverse the \$125 penalty for Reach Up benefits adopted last legislative session

Action Items

For the next meeting:

- subcommittee members will discuss the economic theory relating to spending and saving decisions of recent Nobel Prize winner Professor Angus Deaton
- Ms. Finn will draft a paragraph on poverty issues relating to access to childcare and a paragraph on the \$125 Reach Up penalty
- members will review the recommendations of the Governor’s report and identify and prioritize which recommendations, or which other policies, they would like to pursue
- Ms. Lafayette will check with the Housing and Homelessness Subcommittee on its own priorities and issues to determine whether there is overlap
- Ms. Finn or Ms. Lafayette will contact Holly Morehouse and Reeva Murphy concerning childcare needs

Motions

No motions were made during the meeting.

Minutes prepared by David P. Hall, Legislative Counsel