

VT Early Childhood Alliance Steering Committee meeting
April 2, 2019 1:15p Montpelier

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Faye Mack	Diane Nichols-Fleming
Judy Pransky	Margaret Atkinson
Becca Schrader	Michelle Fay
Amanda Cochran	Molly Gleason (for Main St Alliance)
Ann Dillenbeck	Pam McCarthy
Claire Kendall	Sarah Kenney
Cynthia Greene (for VtAEYC)	Tabitha McGlynn

Not in Attendance: Ilene Dickinson, Jessie Carpenter, Ellen Drolette, Faye Longo, Holly Morehouse, Katie Watts, Steve Ames
Staff: Matt Levin, Kelly Ault, Sarah Galbraith

Guests: Beth Truzansky (BBF)

1. Welcome, logistics, agenda review

Introductions were made, and there were no changes made to the agenda.

2. Minutes from 12/18/18 Meeting

Matt presented draft minutes from the December Steering Committee meeting. There were no edits or corrections suggested, and the drafts were **accepted by consensus**.

3. Executive Committee Report

Matt noted that the minutes from Executive Committee meetings held between Steering Committee meetings are always included in the meeting packet.

Matt drew the Committee's attention to the reference in the March meeting minutes to an internship that the Alliance was planning to offer to Anne Latulippe during the spring and summer. He characterized this as a one-time opportunity that would cost the Alliance approximately \$2000, which had been approved by the Executive Committee. He considered this an experiment, and if successful funding for a similar position in 2020 could be included in next year's budget.

4. Finance Report

Matt reported that Alliance expenses were running as projected so far for the year.

5. "Break the Box" Update

Matt provided a brief report on the ongoing Phase 2 of the project, which involved interviews

with project stakeholders on their vision for how to break out of the austerity “box” over the short, medium, and long-term. He reported that the stakeholders were meeting the next day to discuss a report on the interviews, and to discuss next steps.

6. BBF Presentation

Beth Truzansky, Building Bright Future’s Early Childhood Action Plan Coordinator, provided the Steering Committee with an update on BBF’s work on the Action Plan, the follow up to the Think Tank’s recommendations, and other work being done by the six Action Plan Committees.

Discussion followed. Committee members asked a variety of questions regarding Think Tank follow up and how specific recommendations were being pursued. Beth offered to send more detailed information about this work to the Committee in the coming days.

7. Legislative Agenda updates

Staff for Agenda Lead Organizations provided brief updates on the status of Agenda issues.

8. Staff Realignment

Kelly announced her plan to leave her position with the Alliance in the coming weeks. Committee members expressed their thanks and appreciation for her work over the past many years with the Alliance and KAP1. Matt reported that the Executive Committee has been discussing transitions in the Alliance staff structure, and has approved a plan to advertise two different positions – one more focused on advocacy and training, the other more on communications and administration – and hire for just one position, based on interviews.

The interview committee, comprised of Matt, Becca, Judy, and Steve, plans to conclude their process in time to allow a new staff person to be hired and in place by the end of May, if possible. Matt indicated that he would be working with the Executive Committee throughout the hiring process. Committee members expressed support for the process as outlined.

9. ECDL Debrief

Sarah G. reported on ECDL ’19, which she said by all accounts was extremely successful. Approximately 315 attended, and a higher percentage than usual of those who registered did attend. A survey of attendees is being sent out, and the event planning committee will be meeting in the coming days to review the day and discuss possible improvements, including those to address issues with lunch service and assuring that legislators are distributed evenly among tables. A brief discussion followed. Committee members thanked Sarah, Kelly, and the rest of the planning group for their work.

10. Justice, Equity, and Privilege survey review

Matt handed out a summary document that presented results of the Equity survey, which was taken by 14 Committee members. Members then broke into small groups to discuss the results and possible next steps. After these discussions, the groups made the following suggestions:

Group #1

- Bring equity “lens” into consideration of what we advocate for, membership make-up, and staffing/leadership – what questions do we need to ask to do so?
- Focus on internal work
- Alliance members share what they have done and work together

Group #2

- Bring equity “lens” into Legislative Agenda-setting process – needs to be component of proposal answers, and we have to offer support to organizations submitting
- Further discuss answer to survey Question #4 – will Steering Committee members really attend a training if we held one?
- Review internal documents with the equity “lens”

Group #3

- Alliance as an example to the rest of the early childhood community
- Consider providing training
- Share resources – leverage what we already know and are doing

Several Committee members volunteered to form a subcommittee to explore the issues further and assist with planning of the proposed equity-focused segment of the Annual Membership Meeting. Subcommittee members are Michelle, Faye M., and Sarah K. Steve will also be offered the chance to participate. Matt will set up a meeting of this group as soon as possible for them to begin their work.

11. Annual Meeting planning

Sarah and Kelly provided an overview of plans for the upcoming Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held at the Zenbarn in Waterbury on May 29. They noted that the agenda is being developed and will include a segment focused on equity-related issues. Committee members offered suggestions and comments on the agenda, and ideas for themes and keynote speakers. Judy offered to assist with planning, and Kelly indicated she would reach out to Steve to see if he wanted to assist as well.

12. May Steering Committee meeting

Matt noted that the Steering Committee would next meet briefly after the Annual Membership Meeting, when officers would be elected and the '20 Agenda Setting Subcommittee would be formed.

After thanks offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.