

VT Early Childhood Alliance Steering Committee meeting
October 26, 2018 **9:15a** **Montpelier**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Faye Mack	Jessie Carpenter
Becca Schrader	Jen Bradley (for Katie Watts)
Ilene Dickinson	Margaret Atkinson
Amanda Cochran	Michelle Fay
Ashley Moore	Pam McCarthy
Claire Kendall	Sarah Kenney
Diane Nichols-Fleming	Sonja Raymond
Ellen Drolette	Steve Ames
Faye Longo	Tabitha McGlynn
Holly Morehouse	

Not in Attendance: Judy Pransky, Ann Dillenbeck

Staff: Matt Levin, Kelly Ault, Sarah Galbraith

Guests: Amy Shollenberger (Action Circles), Erhard Mahnke (VT Affordable Housing Coal.), Kenda Tucker (VT Affordable Housing Coal.), Dr. Catherine Antley (Physicians, Families and Friends for a Better VT), Kate Logan (Rights and Democracy)

1. Welcome, logistics, agenda review

Introductions were made, and there were no changes made to the agenda. New members were welcomed to the Committee. Matt noted that an updated version of the Steering Committee roster had been included in the meeting packet.

2. Minutes from 5/30/18 Meeting

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

3. Discussion of Proposals for the 2019 Legislative Agenda

Matt reviewed the process used by the Agenda Setting Subcommittee to consider the 15 proposals submitted and to develop their recommendations memo for the Alliance's 2019 Legislative Agenda. Faye provided some framing for the discussion. A lengthy discussion followed, during which a wide variety of questions about specific proposals were answered.

During the course of the discussion, **consensus** was reached on including seven proposals on the '19 Agenda:

- Housing and VHCB funding
- Family/Medical Leave Insurance
- Farm to School/Early Childhood funding
- CIS funding
- PCC Network master grant funding
- Reach Up funding
- FY '20 State Budget/Revenue

Consensus was also reached that three proposals, all related to child care, should be included on the '19 Agenda in one form or another, pending the development of the final recommendations of the BBF Building Vermont's Future Think Tank. These three proposals are:

- CCFAP funding
- TEACH funding
- Support for Think Tank recommendations

It was agreed that the proposals would be considered further at the Steering Committee's December meeting, with the goal of finalizing format, language, and specific "asks" at that time.

Consensus was reached to accept the proposal regarding work tracking Universal Pre-K/Act 166 reform proposals, but that the issue would not appear on the printed Legislative Agenda.

After a variety of concerns and questions were raised, the Committee failed to reach a consensus on the proposal for the Alliance to support additional funding for Building Bright Futures (BBF). Matt agreed to work with the proposal sponsors on the best method to further explore and answer these concerns, perhaps in the context of a conference call, with a goal of reaching resolution before or at the December Steering Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the proposal to support an increase in the minimum wage and join the Raise the Wage (RtW) Coalition at length, and a variety of concerns and questions were raised. No consensus was reached. It was agreed that the Steering Committee would discuss the issue further at their December meeting.

However, **consensus** was reached that, regardless of the lack of resolution on the proposal to join the RtW Coalition, the Alliance should monitor and engage in discussions during the 2019 session related to the minimum wage and the benefits cliff, as had been proposed. It was agreed that the issue would not appear on the printed Legislative Agenda.

After considerable discussion, **consensus** was reached that the Alliance would have no position on the proposal to oppose the taxation and regulation of marijuana (also referred to by supporters as opposing the commercialization of marijuana). In the course of the discussion of that proposal, Committee members considered the possibility of having further discussion on issues related to substance abuse. It was noted that several reports were being developed on the subject, and many Committee members expressed an interest in further discussion. Matt indicated that the issue would be considered by the Executive Committee at their next meeting, later in October.

Matt agreed to work with the lead organizations to develop summary statements for each of the seven proposals that have been accepted to appear on the published Agenda. He noted that these summaries, and the status of the other issues not yet resolved, will be considered during the Committee's November 13 conference call.

4. Executive Committee Report

Matt noted that the minutes from Executive Committee (EC) meetings held between Steering Committee meetings are always included in the meeting packet. Sarah K. suggested that in the future EC minutes be circulated to the full Steering Committee after the EC meetings take place, so that information can be shared in a more timely way. Matt noted that the minutes might still be in draft form, and Committee members agreed to the proposal.

Sarah G. and Kelly then reported on Alliance communications activities, reviewing the memo that was included in the meeting packet. They noted this was the second evaluation, and included more data than the first one. A discussion followed. Committee members asked about social media use, press relations, and how the Alliance can best support members.

Matt then provided a brief update on the still unresolved question of whether or not the Alliance will contract for supplemental lobbying capacity in 2019. He noted the decision is largely dependent on what issues are included on the '19 Legislative Agenda.

Staff then reported on the work to coordinate outreach to candidates during the election season among Alliance members, and the Alliance's own outreach efforts, using the new one page flier that had been developed. Copies of the flier were distributed. Kelly noted that the Alliance communications tools were valuable in supporting information sharing and coordination.

Matt noted that Sarah G. had taken over the role as coordinator of ECDL planning, and Sarah then reported on initial planning discussions. She noted that the coming event would be the 25th anniversary, and the planning committee was considering ways to highlight that in the agenda.

Matt then reported on a new project that is being overseen by the Executive Committee, referred to as the "State Revenue" or "Break the Box" project. He referred to the summary memo included in the meeting packet, noting that the research and policy campaign project was still in a preliminary phase. Matt will report to the Executive Committee as the project progresses in the coming weeks.

Matt and Kelly reported on staff work to consider how to incorporate equity and justice issues into the Alliance's work, functions, organizational structure, etc. Matt indicated that he was in the process of looking for training resources to offer Alliance members and the Steering Committee, and that he was still not entirely clear what the Alliance's role was in the discussion. Committee members expressed support for staff's initiative on the issue, and for bringing it forward. There was agreement that it would be helpful to consider internal Alliance procedures and structures, as well as to offer support to members. Staff indicated they would continue working on the issue and keep the Committee informed about their progress.

Matt next reported on preliminary discussions staff and the Executive Committee have had regarding a re-examination of the age definition of "early childhood". These discussions are a result of questions raised by Vermont Afterschool, Inc, regarding the balance of focus within the early childhood community between 0 to 5 and 5 to 8 year-old age groups. The Executive Committee has asked staff to conduct a preliminary investigation and round of interviews with stakeholders, which Matt indicated he had starting and would continue in the coming weeks. He will report his findings to the Executive Committee at their coming meetings.

5. Financial Report and Proposed 2019 Budget

Matt reviewed the spreadsheet in the packet which detailed projected 2018 year-end financials as well as a draft 2019 budget. He noted that the Executive Committee had approved the draft budget. After a few questions from Committee members, they **consented** to the proposed budget.

6. Governance Document amendments

Matt directed Committee members to the memo in the packet outlining a variety of edits to the Governance Document. He noted that all the proposed changes had been reviewed by the Executive Committee. A discussion followed of the suggestions, which focused on changes to the mission statement and principles, membership definitions and activities, and the Annual Membership meeting. After a few questions, Committee members **consented** to all the proposed suggestions except the addition to the Guiding Principles.

After further discussion of word choice and meaning, the Committee **consented** to an amended version of the change to the Guiding Principles, retaining references to equity and inclusion but deleting the reference to “respect”. Staff agreed to work to find additional, alternative wording for the Committee to consider at a future meeting to further refine this language.

7. Announcements

There were a number of announcements about upcoming events sponsored by Committee members, and hiring processes currently underway.

8. November, December Committee meetings

Matt noted that the Steering Committee would next meet on November 13 for an hour-long phone meeting, and on December 18 for a four-hour, in-person meeting, at a location to be determined.

After thanks offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.