

VT Early Childhood Alliance Steering Committee meeting
November 13, 2018 **2:00p** **via conference call**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Judy Pransky	Margaret Atkinson
Amanda Cochrane	Michelle Fay
Ann Dillenbeck	Pam McCarthy
Ashley Moore	Sarah Kenney
Jessie Carpenter	Steve Ames
Katie Watts	Tabitha McGlynn

Not in Attendance: Faye Mack, Becca Schrader, Ilene Dickinson, Claire Kendall, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Ellen Drolette, Faye Longo, Holly Morehouse, Sonja Raymond

Staff: Matt Levin, Kelly Ault, Sarah Galbraith

1. Welcome, logistics, agenda review

Matt reviewed the purpose of the meeting, noting that the limited agenda was focused on moving the Legislative Agenda development process forward.

2. Legislative Agenda development review

Matt provided a brief summary of the Agenda development process, and the progress to date.

3. Review of Summaries of 7 Proposals for the 2019 Legislative Agenda

Matt referred the Committee to the issue summaries provided for the seven issues previously approved for 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, and work on the FY'20 budget. Sarah K. asked about wording for the CIS issue narrative, noting that legislators are moving away from references to ACEs. Margaret agreed to consider alternative wording. Ann asked about wording in the budget narrative that referred to impacted populations, and Matt agreed to consider alternative wording. With those two edits to be made, the Committee then **consented** with the proposed wording.

4. Review of Child Care-related issues

The Committee then discussed the development of the three issues related to child care that have been provisionally approved for inclusion on the '19 Agenda. Sarah provided an update on discussions regarding CCFAP, reporting that the lead organizations are now developing a proposal to request increased funding for all three aspects of the program – market rates, eligibility, and benefit levels. The total amount of the request has not been finalized, but will likely be at the high end of the \$5-55m range listed in the original Agenda proposal.

Several Committee members reported on the work of the Think Tank, which is moving towards a final set of recommendations. They will likely include a limited number of specific suggestions

for legislative consideration in 2019. Matt indicated that the current thinking was to not have a Think Tank-specific item on the Agenda, but that might change as the recommendations are finalized and other initiatives being considered are refined, especially those related to business community involvement. Sarah K. indicated that Let's Grow Kids was considering a refinement of the original Agenda proposals, and would be working on language to share with the Steering Committee prior to the December 18 meeting.

Kelly provided an update on the discussions on professional development supports, including loan forgiveness and repayment plans being used in other states. These conversations are still developing, and the hope is that there will be more clarity before the December 18 Steering Committee meeting.

Committee members asked a number of follow up questions regarding CCFAP and funding options. Regarding possible proposals from the Governor to reduce funding for Pre-k-12 education and redistribute funds, Matt noted that any Alliance response would be initiated by the Policy/Advocacy and Executive Committees, and that he would also likely suggest a special meeting of the full Steering Committee if and when such a proposal began to gain traction in the State House.

5. Update on other unresolved issues

Matt updated the Committee on his discussion with BBF staff regarding their proposal, noting that a conference call would be set up to answer Committee members' questions in anticipation of further discussion of the proposal at the December 18 meeting.

Matt also reported on preliminary discussions with Rights and Democracy staff regarding the minimum wage proposal. Ashley reported that she had also been in touch with RaD staff and sent them a list of questions. Neither Matt nor Ashley had any new information to share.

6. ECDL update

Kelly reported that sponsorship pledges continued to come in for ECDL, and that she was looking for a few more sponsors to round out the list for 2019. She asked any Committee members with suggestions for organizations to contact to be in touch with her.

After thanks offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.