

**VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance  
Annual Membership Meeting  
September 16, 2021                      2:15p  
Waterbury, VT**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance: approximately 70, including 40 Alliance individual/organizational members, 2 strategic partners, 3 staff, and guests.

Matt Levin, Alliance Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 2:15p and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Sarah Kenney, Steering Committee member representing Let's Grow Kids, introduced the Meeting's welcoming speaker, Rep. Theresa Wood, recognizing her key role in championing early childhood issues and funding in the legislature. Rep. Wood spoke about her work in the legislature and the importance of the work of the Alliance, its members, and the lead organizations on issues on the Legislative Agenda.

Matt Levin, Alliance Executive Director, facilitated the business items on the Meeting agenda. He noted that copies of the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes had been distributed, and the 2018 Minutes were accepted by consensus.

Matt then conducted elections for seats on the Steering Committee. He asked for nominations, and the following members in good standing were nominated:

- **Early Care/Early Ed (afterschool)** – Cassie Willner of Afterschool, Inc. nominated *Afterschool, Inc.* as an Organizational Member with Holly Morehouse as their representative.
- **Early Care/Early Ed (center-based)** – Claire Kendall of the VT Parent Child Center Network nominated *Emerson Falls Playcare* as an Organizational Member, with Judy Pransky as their representative.
- **Economic Security** – Ilene Dickinson, Individual Member, nominated *Umbrella* as an Organizational Member, with Amanda Cochrane as their representative.
- **Family Support** – Claire Kendall of the VT Parent Child Center Network nominated the *VT Parent Child Center Network* as an Organizational Member, with Floyd Nease as their representative.
- **Food Security** – Tabitha McGlynn, Individual Member, nominated *Hunger Free Vermont* as an Organizational Member, with Faye Mack as their representative.
- **Health** – Pam McCarthy of the Vermont Family Network nominated the *Vermont Family Network* as an Organizational Member, with Pam McCarthy as their representative.
- **Parents** – Judy Pransky of Emerson Falls Playcare nominated *Ilene Dickinson* as an Individual Member.
- **Safety** – *Ann Dillenbeck* nominated herself as an Individual Member.

Steve Ames moved to close nominations and elect the eight nominated candidates to the named Steering Committee seats. The motion was seconded by Erhard Mahnke of the VT Affordable Housing Coalition. The motion passed unanimously.

Matt then asked for nominations for the two **At-Large** seats, and the following members in good standing were nominated:

- Sonja Raymond of VtAEYC nominated *Let's Grow Kids* as an Organizational Member, with Sarah Kenney as their representative.
- Sarah Kenney of Let's Grow Kids nominated the *Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VtAEYC)* as an Organizational Member, with Sonja Raymond as their representative.

Faye Longo moved to close nominations and elect the nominated candidates. The motion was seconded by Pam McCarthy of the VT Family Network. The motion passed unanimously.

Matt concluded the business portion of the Meeting by noting that a copy of the Alliance's Governance Document was available for review at the meeting, and that an online evaluation process would be conducted after the Meeting.

Kim Keiser of the Turrell Fund then offered a tribute to Kelly Ault, who concludes her work as the Alliance Public Engagement Director in June. Matt presented Kelly with an appreciation, including a scroll from "the children of Vermont" declaring her "Queen for the Day". Kelly thanked Kim and the Alliance membership, and offered observations on her 12 years working for the coalition.

Matt then moderated a discussion, including both a panel of representatives from lead organizations on the 2019 Legislative Agenda and audience participation, which reflected on the Alliance's work over the last year through the Collective Impact lens.

Michelle Fay of Voices for Vermont's Children then introduced Dr. Maria Mercedes Avila, who provided comments on equity, inclusion, and diversity in Vermont and in the early childhood community.

Michelle then directed a small group exercise, during which Meeting participants discussed ways the Alliance could better incorporate the equity, inclusion, and diversity lenses into the Alliance's work on the Legislative Agenda development process and in general. Feedback was gathered from the discussions by facilitators, for review by members of the Steering Committee.

Faye Mack, Steering Committee Chair, offered closing remarks, thanking Alliance staff for their work on the Meeting and everyone for coming, and adjourned the Meeting by consensus at 440p.

*Respectfully submitted by Ilene Dickinson, Secretary and Matt Levin, Executive Director*