

VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance Steering Committee meeting
March 31, 2021 9:00a via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Margaret Atkinson (Chair)	Morgan Nichols
Tabitha McGlynn	Diane Nichols-Fleming,
Barbara Petrie	Sonja Raymond
Ann Dillenbeck	Sarah Teel
Ellen Drolette	Joanna VonCulin
Deb Gass	Cassie Willner (for Holly M.)
Sarah Kenney	Mary Zentara
Pam McCarthy	

Not in Attendance: Faye Mack, Amanda Cochran, Floyd Nease, Judy Pransky, Andrea Solazzo

Staff: Matt Levin, Amy Russo-Perler, Dan Brown

Guests: Interim Deputy Comm. Miranda Gray, CDD Director of Programs Sheila Duranleau

1. Welcome, logistics, agenda review

Introductions were made, and there were no changes made to the agenda. Margaret reminded Committee members to turn in their stipend forms if they had not already done so.

2. Minutes from 1/14/21 Meeting

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

3. Executive Committee minutes

Margaret noted that the minutes from Executive Committee meetings held between Steering Committee meetings are always included in the meeting packet. There were no questions about the January meeting minutes.

4. Administrative Report

Matt provided an update on the staffing plan for the summer and fall, noting that Dan will be covering for Amy during her leave and that staff will be having a discussion in September about how best to organize work responsibilities for the rest of '21 and into '22.

Amy then reviewed current membership numbers. The Alliance has about 120 current members, which is similar to previous years. She also gave a brief update on communications, noting that she will be preparing a formal 1st Quarter report in the coming weeks. Preliminary numbers indicate website traffic is slightly up and other numbers are more or less normal.

Matt provided an update on the Break the Box project. After providing some background, he reported that the project had a new name, Fund Vermont's Future, and otherwise was slowly developing. He noted several reasons why things have slowed, including a need to include new voices into the discussion; the impact of the huge federal pandemic response packages on the

state's short- and long-term needs; and the potential for a large infrastructure funding bill. He indicated he is involved with meetings on the project weekly, and will keep the Executive Committee informed about developments in the coming months.

5. ECDL Debrief

Amy reviewed her debrief memo in the packet, detailing the successes of the day and some of the feedback that has been received. The feedback has been very positive, and suggestions have been made on the pros and cons of retaining some aspects of the virtual format.

Committee members offered additional feedback and suggestions on a variety of aspects of the event, including the benefits of the virtual format, the use and utility of talking points/handouts, and the possible use of videos as an additional format for information sharing on issues. Matt noted the tremendous success of the event, and thanked Amy and Dan for all their work.

6. Discussion with CDD Leadership

Interim Deputy Commissioner Miranda Gray and CDD Director of Programs Sheila Duranleau joined the Committee for a discussion of issues facing the early childhood community and CDD. Topics included grants, vaccine distribution, use of federal funds, CDD reorganization proposal, STARS, CIS, etc.

7. DEI Exercise

Amy led the group through a brief exercise and discussion.

8. State House/Legislative Agenda legislative update

Issue leads provided brief updates on the status of each of their issues. A discussion followed.

9. Scheduling next meeting

Amy provided a preview of the virtual Annual Membership Meeting, now planned for Wednesday, May 26 at 2p. She and Dan will be working on the event details.

Matt noted that the tentative plan is to have a Steering Committee meeting just following or a few days after the Annual Meeting, to elect Committee officers and form the Agenda Setting Subcommittee. He indicated that current plans are to use the normal Alliance timing for the Agenda Setting process for the fall, though developments in the State House may disrupt that plan.

After thanks was offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.