

VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Annual Membership Meeting
May 26, 2021 **2:00 pm**
Via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: 56, including 43 Alliance individual/organizational members, 3 strategic partners, 6 guests, and 2 staff

Margaret Atkinson, Alliance Steering Committee Chair, called the virtual Meeting to order at 2:00 pm and welcomed participants, offering a reflection on the Alliance's work during the past year. The Meeting then adjourned to workshops on the '21 Legislative Agenda and an introduction to membership in the Alliance.

Matt Levin, Alliance Executive Director, called the Meeting back to order after the workshops and facilitated the business items on the agenda. He confirmed that a quorum was present, and offered his reflections on the Alliance's work of the past year and the current context of our collective work. Rather than a formal land acknowledgement, he asked members to consider the history of land displacement and genocide that led to our current settlement, and to consider taking action to increase their awareness of that condition and activism to respond to it.

Links to the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes were posted virtually, and the Minutes were accepted by consensus. Current Steering Committee members were then introduced.

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 Vermont Afterschool nominated *Vermont Afterschool* as an Organizational Member, with Cassie Willner as their representative
- **Early Care/Early Ed. – Center Based** – Judy Pransky of Emerson Falls Play Care nominated *Emerson Falls Play Care* as an Organizational Member, with Judy Pransky as their representative
- **Economic Security** – Sarah Teel of Voices for Vermont's Children nominated *Sandra Cross* as an Individual Member
- **Family Support** – Floyd Nease nominated the *Vermont Parent Child Center Network* as an Organizational Member, with Floyd Nease as their representative
- **Food Security** – Keely Agan of Hunger Free Vermont nominated *Hunger Free Vermont* as an Organizational Member, with Faye Mack as their representative
- **Health** – Ann Dillenbeck, Individual Member, nominated *Vermont Family Network* as an Organizational Member, with Pam McCarthy as their representative
- **Parent** – Joanna VonCulin, Individual Member, nominated *Mary Zentara* as an Individual Member

- **Safety** – Judy Pransky of Emerson Falls Play Care nominated *Ann Dillenbeck* as an Individual Member

Margaret Atkinson of the Winston Prouty Center made a motion to elect the slate as presented, and Judy Pransky of Emerson Falls Playcare seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

- **At Large** – Pam McCarthy of Vermont Family Network nominated *Let's Grow Kids* as an Organizational Member, with Sarah Kenney as their representative
- **At Large** – Sarah Kenney of Let's Grow Kids nominated *Vermont AEYC* as an Organizational Member, with Janet McLaughlin as their representative

Morgan Nichols of Main Street Alliance-VT made a motion to elect the slate as presented, and Joanna VonCulin, individual member, seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Matt then noted that anyone interested in serving in the Committee position currently open should contact him to discuss the process for filling a vacancy.

Dan Brown, Alliance Public Engagement Director, then noted that attendees would be receiving an email with a meeting evaluation, and to gather any feedback on the Alliance's Governance Document.

Margaret then introduced Rep. Peter Welch. He thanked Alliance members and staff for their work supporting the policies critical to Vermont's children and young families, and reviewed past and future federal action in support of our community.

Matt then moderated a panel consisting of Sen. Ginny Lyons, Rep. Theresa Wood, and Rep. Kimberly Jessup that discussed how the legislature is engaging with advocates regarding the allocation of federal pandemic response funding. After the panel, participants split into four smaller breakout groups to continue the discussion.

With thanks for all, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Levin (Exec. Dir.)