

**VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Steering Committee meeting
March 30, 2022 1:30p via Zoom**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Faye Mack	Morgan Nichols
Barbara Petrie	Judy Pransky
Diane Nichols-Flemming	Carrie Stahler
Ann Dillenbeck	Sarah Teel
Claire Kendall	Mary Zentara
Sarah Kenney	
Chloe Leary	
Janet McLaughlin	

Not in Attendance: VT Afterschool, Tabitha McGlynn, Sandra Cross, Ellen Drolette, Deb Gass, Joanna VonCulin, Sarah Wallace-Brodeur

Staff: Matt Levin, Dan Brown, Taylor Hughey
Guest: Beth Truzansky

1. Welcome, logistics, agenda review

Introductions were made. Thanks were spoken to Pam McCarthy and Margaret Atkinson for serving on the Steering Committee (SC). Acknowledgement was given to Chloe Leary for stepping in for Margaret (on behalf of Winston Prouty) and Sarah-Wallace Brodeur for stepping in for Pam (on behalf of Vermont Family Network).

2. Discussion with BBF Leadership

Beth Truzansky, BBF Deputy Director, shared some recent BBF publications and gave an update on the Child Care and Early Childhood Education Systems Analysis, as well as on a project BBF is working on with CDD to analyze CIS data. A discussion followed, and Committee members thanked Beth for the continuing communications.

3. Minutes from 12/15/21 Meeting

Matt presented draft minutes from December SC meeting. There were no edits or corrections suggested and the draft was **accepted by consensus**.

4. Election of new Steering Cmte. Chair

Matt noted that with Margaret's departure from the Committee, the position of SC Chair was vacant. He reported that Faye Mack, current Vice Chair and former Chair, has offered to step in

on an interim basis until the next officer election at Annual Meeting, likely in about two months. Faye's self-nomination to serve as Chair was **accepted by consensus**.

5. Executive Committee Minutes from 1/31/22

Matt 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 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

6. Administrative Reports/Updates

Taylor provided a report on membership retention and recruitment, referring to the memo in the packet and noting that the membership cycle is on a rolling basis throughout the year with the hope to make it more convenient for members. Currently (as of this meeting), the Alliance has 28 organizational members, 41 individual members, and 3 strategic partners. These numbers have been slowly increasing since the last report in December 2021. A handful of members joined or renewed at ECDL. The impact of the move to voluntary donations for individual membership is still too recent to determine what if any impact it will have on membership. There were no questions from the Committee.

Taylor gave a brief verbal report on the Alliance's communications strategies, continuing a discussion from earlier meetings regarding the Alliance's use of social media. She recommended that the Alliance continue to focus on use of Facebook and the emailed newsletter for the rest of this year, with the option to look into utilizing other platforms next year as needs arise. Committee members supported this recommendation.

Matt gave an update on the continuing development of the Fund Vermont's Future Campaign. One month ago, Al Johnson-Kurtz was hired to manage the campaign, which will eventually be a public effort to seek more state revenues and create a more transparent state budgeting process. They are sorting through previous draft action plans, campaign plans, etc. and will be helping the group develop more concrete plans in the coming months. Matt expects progress to be slow, and will provide updates as the campaign develops further.

Matt then updated the SC on his continuing efforts to diversify the Alliance's foundation funding base, working with Turrell Fund staff. He will be presenting information on the Alliance to the Turrell Fund Board of Trustees meeting in May. Several Trustees have indicated they would prefer to decrease the overall level of funding Turrell provides the Alliance. He noted that he will keep the Executive Committee posted on this project, and may ask for a retreat-style meeting of SC members over the summer to discuss long-term Alliance funding options.

Taylor reviewed staff recommendations for further changes to the Alliance's SC member stipend policy, which was to extend the policy to cover additional meetings. She noted that the proposed hourly rate, which was originally \$15, would increase to \$25, following the suggestion of the Equity Subcommittee. The expansion of the policy, and the increase in the hourly rate, was **accepted by consensus**. The policy wording will be finalized by the Executive Committee.

7. ECDL Debrief/Financials

Taylor provided a report and debrief from ECDL '22, noting that the day was successful. About 160 attendees joined by Zoom throughout the day, as well as about 50 legislators participating either in person or virtually. The post-event survey results so far indicate that the majority of attendees found the day to be useful, with many noting that they would have liked to have had it in-person and look forward to that possibility next year. Taylor will continue to review the results, and will begin discussions about plans for ECDL '23 during the coming months.

Matt briefly discussed ECDL's financials, noting that it was difficult this year to find sponsors to help cover costs for the event. The Turrell Fund provided a large supplemental donation this year, in addition to their usual sponsorship, that helped to alleviate a gap in fundraising.

8. Legislative Agenda Update

Matt asked for SC members to offer updates on Legislative Agenda issues they were working on. Updates were provided on CCFAP funding, Universal School Meals, and Reach Up, as well as on funding requests made by the Foodbank.

Matt noted that in addition to supporting advocacy on housing and homelessness, the Alliance is supporting a conversation within the housing community to strengthen the various organization's messaging about and definition of their respective roles.

9. Annual Membership Meeting planning, Schedule for next SC meeting

There was a brief discussion about Annual Membership Meeting being in-person or virtual. Most SC members seemed comfortable meeting in person. The next SC meeting will be held at the Meeting, with officer elections on the agenda. Taylor is working on possible venues, and staff will be in touch with SC members about scheduling once possible locations are identified.

After thanks all around, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.