

**VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance  
Steering Committee meeting  
October 19, 2022 11:00a  
North Branch Nature Ctr., Montpelier**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Chloe Learey	Claire Kendall
Keely Agan	Sarah Kenney
Carrie Stahler	Janet McLaughlin
Ellen Drolette	Morgan Nichols
Gretchen Elias	Judy Pransky
Deb Gass	Sarah Teel
Amanda Herzberger	Dan Winslow

Not in Attendance: Diane Nichols-Fleming, Tabitha McGlynn, Sandra Cross, Nicole Miller, Sarah Wallace-Brodeur

Staff: Matt Levin, Beverly Boget, Taylor Hughey

Guest: Amy Shollenberger

1. Welcome, logistics, agenda review

Introductions were made and there were no changes made to the agenda.

Chair Learey announced that she was nominating and appointing Good Beginnings, an organizational member to be represented by their Executive Director Gretchen Elias, to the vacant Parent seat on the Steering Committee that has a term expiring in 2023. Gretchen introduced herself to the Committee.

Other Committee members introduced themselves. Beverly Boget, the new Alliance Public Engagement Director, introduced herself to the Committee. Matt noted that an updated Committee roster, with staff contacts, was included in the meeting packet.

2. Minutes from 5/24/22 Meeting

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

3. Discussion of Proposals for the 2023 Legislative Agenda

Matt referred the Committee to the memo from the Agenda Setting Subcommittee reporting their recommendations regarding the 10 applications for the Alliance's 2023 Legislative Agenda. He provided some framing for the discussion.

During the discussion that followed, topics included an exploration of the details of all the

proposals, options for handling the FY24 budget proposal, and other related issues. Committee members noted that many proposals still lacked specific dollar figures for their “ask”, and it was agreed that while more uncertainty than usual was predictable this year, lead organizations would work to get more specific numbers in the coming weeks and as the session progressed.

**Consensus** was then reached on including eight proposals on the printed/public version of the '23 Agenda:

- CIS funding
- Diaper Bank funding
- FaMLI
- Housing funding
- PCC Funding
- Reach Up funding
- Transform ECE (CCFAP/workforce)
- Universal School Meals

**Consensus** was reached to support but not list on the printed/public '23 Agenda one proposal:

- Fund Vermont's Future Campaign

**Consensus** was reached to support work on one issue which staff would work to determine the best way to possibly include on the printed/public '23 Agenda:

- FY24 State Budget

Matt then described the process that will be used to develop the printed Legislative Agenda. He agreed to work with the lead organizations in the coming weeks to develop summary statements for each of the proposals that had been accepted.

#### 4. Project/Committee Reports

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 July or September Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Matt provided an overview of the slow development and evolution of the Fund Vermont's Future Campaign, noting the Campaign's planned limited goals for the '23 legislative session. He promised to keep the Committee posted on developments at future meetings.

Taylor pointed the Committee to the quarterly Communications Reports in the meeting packet and reviewed some of the highlights of the reports.

Taylor then provided an update on planning for ECDL '23. She reported on the discussions with BBF and LGK that led to a re-evaluation of their roles, and the collaborative decision to move to the Alliance being the sole host and BBF and LGK moving to sponsor roles. She also reported on efforts to secure a new event consultant, as Delaney has informed her that they do not have capacity to support ECDL next year. A discussion followed, during which Committee members offered ideas and suggestions for possible workshops, event coordinators, and other aspects of the event.

#### 5. Retreat Report and Next Steps

Matt pointed the Committee to the two memos in the packet which reviewed the results from the July Committee retreat, and presented staff recommendations for next steps to investigate ideas

for ways to work with member organizations to secure more funding for the Alliance. After he reviewed the proposals in the memos, **Chloe, Deb, and Sarah K. agreed to serve on a temporary Fundraising Subcommittee** to consider the staff proposals regarding potential increased fundraising from and with Alliance organizational members.

Matt then asked the Committee to consider the dues structure for the coming '22-23 membership cycle. He recommended that the individual dues continue to be voluntary, and that the organizational dues be raised from \$75 to \$100. He noted that this would be the first dues increase for organizations in many years (if not the first ever). The Committee then **consented** to the proposed dues structure for '22-23.

#### 6. Finance Report and Budget Approval

Matt reviewed the materials in the packet regarding the projected 2022 year-end financials, noting the areas where spending was notably higher or lower than budgeted and the projected small surplus for the year. A brief discussion followed.

Matt provided an update on his efforts to secure additional funding sources for the Alliance. These efforts were in part a response to the likely decrease in funding from the Turrell Fund in coming years, but are also intended to strengthen the resiliency of the organization's funding base. He reviewed his individual efforts to secure additional funding, including a successful proposal to the Couch Family Foundation, as well as outreach efforts being undertaken on the Alliance's behalf by Turrell staff. A brief discussion followed. He promised to keep the Committee posted as the project continued.

Matt then directed the Committee to the proposed '23 budget. He noted the specific line items where changes were proposed from '22. After a brief discussion, the Committee **consented** to the proposed 2023 Alliance budget, as presented.

#### 7. Announcements

Morgan Nichols announced that she would be leaving her position with Main Street Alliance at the end of the month. MSA will soon begin the hiring process to find someone to take on the work supporting the FaMLI Coalition.

#### 8. Scheduling next meeting

Matt indicated he would send a poll shortly to determine the timing for the November and December Committee meetings.

After thanks offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.