

VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Annual Membership Meeting
May 30, 2023 **2:30 pm**
Norwich, VT

DRAFT

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: 40, including 28 Alliance individual/organizational members, 2 strategic partners, 7 guests, and 3 staff

Matt Levin, Alliance Executive Director, called the Meeting to order at 230p, following workshops on the '23 Legislative Agenda and an introduction to membership in the Alliance. He introduced Department for Children and Families Commissioner Chris Winters, who addressed the Meeting. Commissioner Winters shared his thoughts about his role and goals and the Department's work, and answered questions from attendees.

Chloe Learey, Alliance Steering Committee Chair, then reviewed the Meeting agenda, introduced the staff, and asked Steering Committee members present to introduce themselves.

Matt asked for motion to accept the '22 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes, which was made by Sarah Kenney from Let's Grow Kids, and accepted unanimously.

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 After School** – Nicole Miller of Vermont Afterschool nominated *Vermont Afterschool* as an Organizational Member, with Nicole Miller 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** – Tabitha McGlynn, individual member, nominated *Cecilia Puleio* as an individual member.
- **Family Support** – Claire Kendall of the Vermont Parent Child Network nominated the *Vermont Parent Child Center Network* as an Organizational Member, with Claire Kendall as their representative
- **Food Security** – Keely Agan of Hunger Free Vermont nominated *Hunger Free Vermont* as an Organizational Member, with Kelly Agan as their representative
- **Health** – Sarah Wallace-Brodeur of Vermont Family Network, organizational member, nominated *Vermont Family Network* as an Organizational Member, with Sarah Wallace-Brodeur as their representative
- **Parent** – Tabitha McGlynn, individual member, nominated the *Greater Burlington YMCA* as an Organizational Member, with Danielle Harris as their representative

There being no other nominations, the slate of candidates was approved unanimously.

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

- **At Large** – Sarah Kinney of Let’s Grow Kids nominated *Vermont AEYC* as an organizational member, with Sharon Harrington as their representative
- **At Large** – Sharon Harrington of VT AEYC nominated *Let’s Grow Kids* as an organizational member, with Sarah Kinney as their representative

There being no other nominations, the slate of candidates was approved unanimously.

Matt noted that the Alliance’s Governance Document was available for review, and any feedback or comments on it should be sent to staff or any member of the Steering Committee.

Matt then facilitated a panel discussion about a funders’ view of advocacy, which featured Evan Delgado and Elizabeth Christie from the Turrell Fund, and Sara Vecchiotti from the Couch Family Foundation. Panelists offered their perspectives on how funders consider proposals that focus on advocacy, why some funders have reservations about funding advocacy, and how funding for advocacy can achieve long-term goals of both funders and applicants. A discussion followed.

With thanks for all, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Levin (Exec. Dir.)