

VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Steering Committee meeting
March 28, 2023 **1:00p**
Via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Chloe Learey	Sharron Harrington
Diane Nichols-Fleming	Amanda Herzberger
Tabitha McGlynn	Claire Kendall
Keely Agan	Sarah Kenney
Carrie Stahler	Judy Pransky
Gretchen Elias	Sarah Wallace-Brodeur
Deb Gass	Dan Winslow

Not in attendance: Sandra Cross, Ellen Drolette, Amy Kincaid, Nicole Miller, Sarah Teel

Staff: Matt Levin, Beverly Boget, Taylor Hughey

1. Welcome, logistics, agenda review

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

2. Minutes from 12/16/22 Meeting

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

3. ECDL Recap

Taylor reported on the successes and challenges of the Day, referring the Committee to the recap memo in the packet. Turnout was significantly hampered by the weather, and was about 40% below registration levels. Legislative turnout was very strong with over 60 legislators attending. She reviewed some of the very positive comments and feedback, noting that in general the responses to the post-event survey have been complimentary. She offered thanks to a number of people/groups that helped make the Day a success, including the student volunteers from UVM recruited by Dr. Northey.

She noted that the financials indicate that there may be a loss on the day that was slightly larger than projected, and that she would be working to resolve any outstanding invoices and hoped those might make the loss a bit smaller. A brief discussion followed, with Committee members expressing appreciation for staff's work on the Day.

4. Executive 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 January Executive Committee meeting Minutes.

Taylor then reviewed the memo in the packet regarding the proposal to move to a three-tier membership dues structure for organizational membership, which the Executive Committee has reviewed and supports. She noted the key points of the proposal, adding that the organizations would self-select the appropriate dues level, and that dues waivers would be available. During the brief discussion that followed, it was noted that the proposal was inspired by ideas generated at last summer's Committee retreat and the work of the subgroup that met afterwards to consider those ideas. The proposal was then **accepted by consensus**. The proposal will go into effect for the 2023-24 membership cycle.

5. Annual Membership Meeting planning

Taylor updated the Committee on her work to find a suitable location for an in-person meeting, to be held in late May or early June. Her current focus is on the Montshire Museum in Norwich, which Matt noted was in keeping with the goal of holding the Meeting south of Montpelier and in a location convenient for those outside the Champlain Valley. Given room availability, the likely date for the Meeting is May 30. A brief discussion followed, during which Committee members offered ideas for possible topics for discussion/focus during the Meeting.

6. Administrative Report

Taylor provided an update on Alliance membership, noting that the current roster of 67 individuals and 30 organizations is about average compared to past years. She also noted that given our change to make individual dues voluntary, there was no membership tie-in to ECDL event ticketing this year, which would lead to a slight decrease in individual members. However, she noted in the past many of those ECDL-related memberships were one-time and/or short-term. She has sent out a batch of renewal notices recently, and would continue to follow up with current and lapsed members throughout the year.

Matt provided a brief update on the Fund Vermont's Future campaign, and the continuing slow development of the project. He noted that activity in the State House had begun to pick up, as the Campaign was starting to focus on a limited legislative agenda that focused on making the budget development process more transparent. He expected the Campaign would have a summary document which supported this effort ready shortly, and would share that with Committee members when it was finalized.

Matt then presented an update on organizational fundraising. He reported that he had secured a matching donation to meet the requirements of the Edwards grant received last year, and that the match included additional funding as well. The donation will allow the Alliance to secure the final \$10,000 in revenue projected for '22, and add \$5,000 to the '23 revenue, which will help defray some of the increased personnel costs anticipated for the year. Matt also reported that the Turrell Fund was investigating the possibility of hiring a fundraising consultant to assist the Alliance in finding additional funding sources to offset the loss in revenue from their projected reduction in grant support in the coming years. Matt noted that the consultant, Scott McArdle, attended ECDL and was very impressed with the Day and the Alliance's work. Matt will keep the Executive Committee updated on the outcome of these discussions.

7. Discussion with CDD Leadership

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Deputy Commissioner was not able to attend the meeting as planned.

8. '23 Alliance Legislative Agenda updates

Matt and Lead Organization staff provided updates on the status of the various issues on the '23 Legislative Agenda. A discussion followed.

9. Announcements

Sarah K. reminded everyone about the rally at the State House on April 12 to support child care legislation. Sharon provided an update on the leadership transitions at VTAEYC. Other events were also announced.

9. Scheduling next meeting

Matt noted that the next Steering Committee meeting would be an in-person meeting to be held in conjunction with the Annual Membership Meeting. He reviewed the meeting schedule for the rest of the year, noting the actions to be taken at the next meeting to set the stage for work to be done over the summer and fall.

After thanks were offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.