

VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Steering Committee meeting
December 16, 2022 11:00a
Via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Chloe Learey	Claire Kendall
Diane Nichols-Fleming	Sarah Kenney
Tabitha McGlynn	Janet McLaughlin
Keely Agan	Sarah Teel
Gretchen Elias	Sarah Wallace-Brodeur
Amanda Herzberger	Dan Winslow

Not in Attendance: Carrie Stahler, Sandra Cross, Ellen Drolette, Deb Gass, Nicole Miller, Judy Pransky, Main Street Alliance

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 10/19/22 and 11/11/22 Meetings

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

3. 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 November Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Matt provided an update on the formation of the Policy/Advocacy Committee for the coming biennium, and pointed to the chart of proposed members in the meeting packet, which had been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee at their previous meeting.

Chair Learey announced that she was nominating and appointing Tabitha McGlynn, an individual member, to be the at-large Steering Committee member of the Policy/Advocacy Committee, and thanked Tabitha for her willingness to serve.

4. ECDL Planning discussion

Taylor updated the Committee on the developing plans for ECDL '23, including the proposed workshops for the afternoon. She reviewed needs for volunteers throughout the day, and asked Committee members to help out as possible. A discussion followed with topics including

possible carpooling strategies for attendees, details for afternoon workshops, plans for afternoon activities, etc. Taylor promised to stay in touch with Committee members as the planning process continues.

5. Administrative Report

Taylor provided an update on Alliance membership, including a comparison of membership numbers from previous years. She reported that numbers were slowly increasing, and she was continuing her outreach to former/lapsed members in the hopes of continuing the trend. It is likely that there will be an increase in February/March from outreach connected to ECDL.

Matt provided a brief update on the Fund Vermont's Future campaign, and the continuing slow development of the project.

Matt reported on the work of the Fundraising Subcommittee (Chloe, Deb, Sarah K., Matt), which met earlier in the month. The group discussed two key projects – a possible three-tiered membership fee structure for organizations, and ways to articulate the Alliance's work and benefits in a way that could be used by lead organizations to raise funds to support Alliance operations. The tiered membership structure proposal will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at their January meeting, and likely be considered by the Steering Committee at their March/April meeting. Staff will work on the second project over the next few months.

Beverly provided a report on the successful Zoom session held in November for lead organizations and Committee members to review the results of the election and the new members of the Legislature. Given the success, she indicated staff would look to support similar informal gatherings in the coming months.

Matt then pointed to the proposed revised '23 Alliance budget in the meeting packet. He reviewed the changes from the version approved at the October meeting, which are mostly related to the elimination of the State House monitoring contract with Action Circles (they are not available in '23) and updated cost figures for ECDL. He also reported that one grant that had been expected to be received in '22 will likely be delayed until early '23, pending our ability to secure matching funds. This delay will lead to some bookkeeping corrections but should not impact the functional aspects of the budget. The Committee then **consented** to the revised '23 budget as presented.

6. DEI Exercise – Land Acknowledgements

Judy Dow provided a presentation to the Committee on deep, intentional, connected land acknowledgements. A discussion followed. The Committee expressed their appreciation to Judy for sharing her perspectives and her guidance.

7. '23 Alliance Legislative Agenda review/approval

Matt directed the Committee to the draft of the printed '23 Legislative Agenda in the meeting packet. Following status updates on a number of issues including housing and early childhood education, the Committee **consented** to the document as presented. Matt noted that as the

document was put into use online and in other contexts, edits may occur to account for changing circumstances on issues.

A conversation followed about the use of the Legislative Agenda and how best to distribute/share the information with advocates and legislators. There was agreement that, given the evolving nature of how the Legislature operates, communications, document sharing, etc., it is not clear how best to get the information into the hands of decision-makers. Committee members agreed to continue to share strategies in the future.

8. Announcements

Taylor announced that the newsletter would move to twice-weekly publication next month, and that staff would be in touch with Lead Organizations to determine scheduling for the issue-focused second editions each week. Sarah K. announced that LGK was planning a rally at the State House on April 12, and other events were in the planning stages.

9. Scheduling next meeting

Matt indicated he would send a poll next month to determine the timing for the March/April Committee meeting. Taylor noted that she would soon begin the search for a venue for the '23 Annual Meeting, and asked Committee members to share with her any ideas they might have for possible venues.

After thanks offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25pm.