

VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Steering Committee meeting
December 8, 2023 9:00a
Via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Chloe Learey	Sharron Harrington
Diane Nichols-Fleming	Claire Kendall
Tabitha McGlynn	Sarah Kenney
Keely Agan	Seth Hibbert (for Afterschool)
Ellen Drolette	Sarah Teel
Danielle Harris	Sarah Wallace-Brodeur
Amanda Herzberger	Tamsen Todisco (for VCLF)
Deb Gass	

Not in Attendance: Carrie Stahler, Judy Pransky, Cecelia Puleio, Main Steet Alliance

Staff: Matt Levin, Beverly Boget, Taylor Hughey

Guests: Beth Truzansky (BBF)

1. Welcome, logistics, agenda review

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

2. Minutes from 10/12/23 and 11/16/23 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 Report

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 October Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Matt then reviewed the process used to develop Issue Working Groups for each issue on the Legislative Agenda, and the related Policy/Advocacy Committee that is made up of staff from each of the lead organizations. He noted that the roster for the Committee was included in the packet, and may shift a bit as staff members change at some organizations.

Chair Learey announced that she was nominating and appointing Tabitha McGlynn, an individual member, and Danielle Harris, representing organizational member Greater Burlington YMCA, to be at-large Steering Committee members of the Policy/Advocacy Committee, and thanked them both for their willingness to serve. Chloe noted that the Committee meetings were open to all Steering Committee members, should anyone else want to participate.

4. ECDL Planning discussion

Taylor updated the Committee on the developing plans for ECDL '24, which have been complicated by the news that the hotel will likely not be ready for an event on March 13. The hotel has offered to reschedule the event for April 10 or 17. Committee members discussed a variety of options for alternative locations, formats, timing, etc.

Matt and Taylor agreed to continue to work with the Executive Committee to determine the best option for how to proceed, given the alternatives that are available. Matt also noted that the event next year will likely be impacted by space limitations, which would put a cap on attendees.

5. Administrative Report

Taylor provided brief updates on membership development and communications, noting that both had been trending more or less as expected.

Matt provided an update on his fundraising efforts, reporting that while he has had a number of positive discussions, so far he had not been able to secure any new major donor gifts. He has a number of additional meetings scheduled in the coming weeks, and will continue to pursue possibilities as they develop.

6. BBF Update

BBF Deputy Director Beth Truzansky provided the Committee with an update on BBF's current staffing and programming structure, which has grown recently due to new federal and state funding. A discussion followed, as Committee members asked follow-up questions on a range of issues and topics.

7. '24 Alliance Legislative Agenda review/approval

Matt directed the Committee to the draft of the printed '24 Legislative Agenda in the meeting packet. After a brief discussion, the Committee **consented** to the document as presented.

A conversation followed about the status of the various issues on the Agenda.

8. Announcements

Sarah Kenney noted that Drake Turner was leaving LGK for a new position with the State Colleges. LGK anticipates hiring a replacement in the coming weeks. Sarah Wallace-Brodeur announced that she would soon be leaving her position with Vermont Family Network for a new position with the Cancer Patient Support Foundation. Committee members wished Sarah well and thanked her for her service over the past years.

9. Scheduling next meeting

Matt reminded everyone about the plan for Committee meetings in late March/early April and at the Annual Meeting in late May/early June.

After thanks offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.