

VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Steering Committee meeting
May 6, 2024 2:30pm
Via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Chloe Learey	Jaqui Kelleher
Tabitha McGlynn	Claire Kendall
Keely Agan	Sarah Kenney
Carrie Stahler	Nicole Miller
Danielle Harris	Cecelia Puleio
Sharron Harrington	Sarah Teel
Amanda Herzberger	Dan Winslow

Not in Attendance: Diane Nichols-Fleming, Ellen Drolette, Deb Gass, 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 to the agenda.

2. Minutes from 12/8/23 Meeting

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

3. ECDL Debrief

Taylor reported that the event was very successful, and that feedback on surveys and from attendees was very positive. She noted that staff would be reviewing how best to manage the late morning social/networking time in the future, as some reviewers wondered about the utility of that time. She and Matt reviewed the financials for the event, noting that for a number of reasons the revenue is about \$3,000, which is more than budgeted. Primary reasons for the surplus are a slightly lower turnout than budgeted, and lower than expected charges from the hotel. Matt noted that planning has already begun for the '25 event.

4. Annual Meeting planning

Taylor provided an update on planning for the Meeting, taking place on May 28.

5. Administrative 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 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Matt then provided an update on his efforts to secure additional funding to support Alliance operations. He noted one grant of \$25,000 had been secured through the connections established by Scott McArdle, while other connections from McArdle could potentially result in future grants. He was confident that the Alliance would secure the funding it needed for '24, though most of the additional funding was not coming from McArdle contacts but from those staff already had developed. He continues to be cautiously optimistic for '25 though more sources will need to be secured.

Matt then briefed the Committee on the developing strategic planning/consultation projects that Alliance staff were now working on. He explained that these projects were with long-term partners (Hunger Free VT and Couch Family Foundation) and would not involve Alliance staff doing any work on the actual campaigns themselves, only consulting on their development and implementation. In both cases, funding would be provided to support the Alliance's work. Matt and Beverly will both be working on the projects, which will be fit into staff workplans for the summer and fall. Finally, he noted that while he was very positive about these projects, which fit well with staff skillsets, he did not anticipate using these projects as a way to begin a new area of work for the Alliance, or proactively seek out additional similar projects in the future.

A brief discussion followed. Sarah K. asked about the process Matt would undertake to consider any additional consulting projects that might be proposed. He noted that he had been briefing the Executive Committee about the two current projects, which had been under discussion for many months, and that he would certainly bring any prospective projects to the Executive Committee for their consideration before any decisions would be made about Alliance participation. He reiterated that while the two projects would fit within current staff workloads, there was no capacity for any additional projects of any significant size given current Alliance staffing.

6. '24 Alliance Legislative Agenda updates

Matt and members of the Committee serving as issue leads provided updates on the issues on the '24 Legislative Agenda.

7. Announcements

There were no announcements.

8. Scheduling next meeting

Matt reminded everyone about the plan for Committee meetings at the Annual Meeting and in October.

After thanks offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.