

**VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance**  
**Steering Committee meeting**  
**December 17, 2024            10:30a            via Zoom**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Chloe Learey	Sarah Kenney
Diane Nichols-Fleming	Heather Lytle
Tabitha McGlynn	Nicole Miller
Keely Agan	Michelle Kessler
Carrie Stahler	Judy Pransky
Danielle Harris	Cecelia Puleio
Sharron Harrington	Sarah Teel
Amanda Herzberger	Dan Winslow

Not in attendance: Deb Gass, Main Street Alliance, Christina Nelson

Staff: Matt Levin, Beverly Boget, Taylor Hughey

Guests: Beth Wallace (VTAEYC), Ellen Amstutz (VPCCN)

1. Welcome, logistics, agenda review

Introductions were made, and Matt noted that the consideration of the '25 Legislative Agenda would be moved up in the meeting agenda to accommodate Committee members who needed to leave the meeting early.

2. Minutes from 10/18 and 11/14/24 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 November Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Matt then reviewed the Alliance's Issue Working Group and Policy/Advocacy Committee structures, and their connection to the Legislative Agenda. He referred Committee members to the listing in the meeting packet. Committee Chair Chloe Learey then nominated and appointed Carrie Stahler, representing organizational member Vermont Foodbank, to be the at-large Steering Committee member of the Policy/Advocacy Committee. Matt noted that the Committee meetings were open to all Steering Committee members, should anyone else want to participate.

4. ECDL Planning Update

Taylor provided a brief update on the status of planning for the event, noting that all was proceeding well. She is in the process of collecting descriptions for workshops, and expects the registration webpage to be online next month. Matt encouraged any large groups planning to come to let Taylor know as soon as possible, given the space limitations at the Capital Plaza.

5. Administrative reports

Matt noted that the most recent version of the Steering Committee roster was included in the packet, and was updated to reflect a few changes. He indicated that the Committee might need to discuss the status of the business seat in the coming months, and that the two safety seats continue to be vacant.

Matt then gave an update on the Alliance's revenue and expenditures forecast for 2025, noting that the recent health care enrollment choices by staff have resulted in a significant decrease in spending likely next year. He will present a revised '25 budget to the Executive Committee at their January meeting.

6. Discussion of Proposals for the 2025 Legislative Agenda

Matt noted that the draft printed presentation of the '25 Legislative Agenda was included in the packet, and asked for feedback. Committee members made a few suggestions for small changes, and then **consented** to the draft, with edits.

A status update on the issues on the Agenda followed. Updates were provided on the child care, 211, and housing issues during the discussion.

7. Food Security Project update

Keely Agan provided an update on Hunger Free Vermont's development "Creating a Food Secure Future for Vermont Children" project. A discussion followed.

8. Election Results Debrief

Matt gave an overview of the impacts of the results of the recent election. The large numbers of new legislators and the Democrat's loss of a supermajority will impact the Alliance's work as will the new makeup of the federal government. However, those impacts are still very much unknown. A discussion followed, with topics including the importance of the Alliance in responding to possible federal spending cuts. Chloe observed that the Alliance's coalition building served as an important antidote to divisiveness and the uncertainty ahead, and that the Policy/Advocacy Committee gave space for real conversations about issues facing our community.

9. Announcements

There were several announcements regarding hiring processes at member organizations.

8. Scheduling next meeting

Matt indicated he would be in touch regarding scheduling the March/April, and May/June Committee meetings.

After thanks offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.