

VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
Steering Committee meeting
December 9, 2025 2:00p via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Steering Committee:

Chloe Learey	Amanda Herzberger
Diane Nichols-Fleming	Claire Kendall
Tabitha McGlynn	Nicole Miller
Keely Agan	Emilie Tenenbaum
Michelle Fay	Beth Traver Adolphus
Deb Gass	Dan Winslow

Not in Attendance: Carrie Stahler, Danielle Harris, Michelle Kessler, Christina Nelson, Cecelia Puleio, Beth Wallace, Main Street Alliance

Guest: Ellen Amstutz (PCCN), Morgan Nichols (Rep. Balint's office)
Staff: Matt Levin, Beverly Boget, Taylor Hughey

1. Welcome, logistics, agenda review

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

2. Minutes from 9/30 and 11/4/25 Meetings

Matt presented draft minutes from the September 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 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 will soon begin collecting descriptions for workshops, and expects the registration webpage to be online next month. Matt noted staff would be working to manage the space limitations at the Capital Plaza, while still allowing as many as possible to attend.

5. Administrative reports

Matt provided a brief update on staff's continuing work advising the Couch Family Foundation on their long-term ECE system improvement project in New Hampshire.

Matt then gave an update on the Alliance's recent fundraising and presented a slightly revised '26 budget, to reflect final fundraising totals and revised estimates for employee benefits for the year. The Committee **consented** to the revised budget.

6. Federal Budget update

Morgan Nichols from Rep. Balint's office provided the Committee with an update on the status of negotiations over the Federal FY26 budget. A discussion followed.

7. 2026 Legislative Agenda issue update and approval

Matt noted that the draft printed presentation of the '26 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 those edits.

Matt noted that the proposal discussed at the September Committee meeting to include a statement on the federal funding situation in the Legislative Agenda could not be acted upon, given the lack of information about federal funding decisions.

Matt and Beverly then provided a status update on several of the issues on the Agenda, including Vermont 211, emergency shelter, and doula Medicaid coverage. A discussion followed.

8. Announcements

There were no announcements.

8. Scheduling next meeting

Matt indicated he would be in touch regarding scheduling the March/April Committee meeting.

After thanks offered all around, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.