
Act 173 Advisory Group

Approved Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: McFarland House

Address: 5 Perry Street, Penthouse Suite, Barre, VT 05641

Date: November 4, 2019

Present:

Advisory Group Members: Meagan Roy, VCSEA; Marilyn Mahusky, DLP/VLA; Lisa Bisbee, VT-NEA Practitioner; Peter Garrecht (VCSEA-selected special educator, replacing Sarah Baker); Cheryle Wilcox, DMH; Nicole Mace, VSBA; Nancy Richards (for Karen Price) VT Coalition of Disability Rights; Jeff Francis, VSA; Jeff Fannon, VT-NEA; Mill Moore, VISA.

Agency of Education (AOE): Emily Simmons, Judy Cutler, Meg Porcella, Chris Case, Maureen Gaidys.

Others: Chelsea Myers, VSA; Lola Duffort, VTDigger; Traci Sawyers, VCSEA; Jo-Anne Unruh, VCSEA; Greg Van Buiten, EDLaw New England; Sue Ceglowski, VSBA; Marianne Donally, DMH; Philip Ehler, VATR; Maggie Lenz, Leonine Public Affairs; Kimberly Gleason, SBE; Dillon Burns, Vermont Care Partners; Representative Larry Cupoli, House Education Committee; and Kate Webb, VT General Assembly.

Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions/Amendments to Agenda

Chair Roy called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m. and advised that some members were not able to make the meeting, for various reasons. She welcomed Peter Garrecht, special educator in Vergennes, who is replacing Sarah Baker as the VCSEA-selected special educator. She asked members to introduce themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes from October 7 Meeting

Chair Roy asked for a motion to approve minutes from the October meeting. Mahusky moved; Mace seconded. Chair Roy called the vote and it passed unanimously.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

Chair Roy asked for any public comments. There were none.

Reports/Updates

Agency of Human Services (AHS)

Chair Roy asked Cheryle Wilcox, Interagency Planning Director, Department of Mental Health (DMH), to give a high-level overview, not an exhaustive list of AHS updates on issues such as Medicaid Funding, Success Beyond Six, etc.

Wilcox referenced a handout titled "[Updates for Act 173 Advisory Workgroup.](#)" She spoke about leadership changes and payment reform. She introduced Marianna Donnelly, DMH School Mental Health and Practice Development Coordinator, who spoke about Success Beyond Six and her work with stakeholder groups.

There was discussion.

Wilcox continued and talked about AHS' 10-year strategic plan, stakeholder input received and that the themes have been inventoried and will be distilled into a report to the Legislature. She added that report will be shared with the Advisory Group (AG). Wilcox said she would provide the Mobile Response Proposal, titled "Making the Case for Mobile Response in Vermont" to AG members. *(This document is also attached to these minutes. Due to accessibility issues, we are not able to link it or post it on our website.)*

Act 173 Funding

Meg Porcella, AOE, addressed her document titled, "[Act 173 Cost/Activity Timeline](#)" and spoke about the District Management Group (DMG) report, Requests for Proposals (RFPs), targeted contracts that are supporting the implementation of Act 173 and the AOE's work to achieve coherence and the need for a systemic approach to accessing professional development. There was further discussion.

AOE Revised Draft Rules

Secretary French invited Emily Simmons and Judy Cutler to address the AG and discuss the [AOE Revised Draft Rules](#), which represented a shift in logic that resulted from the AG's last meeting and discussion on Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Simmons spoke to the track changes in [AOE's Revised Draft Rules](#). There was discussion. Chair Roy asked for comments and initial impressions.

Chair Roy confirmed that the AOE would be presenting these revised rules to the State Board of Education (SBE) in November and in December the AG would present their formal response to the draft revisions. She directed the AG to share comments and agreements today and that there would be more formal action taken at the December meeting. She summarized that this set of rules represented a significant movement toward matching the federal and state definition of special education, removing some restrictions and allowing different rules for different funding streams. She thanked the AOE for hearing feedback from various groups and advised AG members to read the revised draft rules in detail and be prepared to discuss in detail at the December meeting.

Discussion

Rules

Chair Roy surveyed the AG on whether there should be future rule discussion on other parts of the 2360 rules series, related to Act 173. Group members weighed in individually. There was discussion on independent school rules. There was public comment from Van Buiten, on having a consensus draft that included series 2360 and 1300. Chair Roy said that in December there will

likely be some rules to propose and the AOE might not be ready to respond, but they will be looped in as soon as possible.

Reaction to AOE Professional Learning Sub-document: Educational Support Teams and Professional Development (Act 173 Funding)

Chair Roy introduced the two items related to professional development (PD). Garrecht praised the *All Learners Network* training and added it is beyond anything he has experienced before and was very beneficial. Chair Roy asked VSA to speak to a recent conversation with education organizations on PD. Francis introduced Chelsea Myers, VSA Director of Communications and PD. Myers spoke about working with the VPA to learn what needs to be done to best serve their members and member organizations with which they collaborate. She spoke about a stakeholder convening (broad demographics) that helped to identify what the field needs from the education organizations regarding communication and professional development. She offered to share the formal summary once the internal debrief has concluded. There was discussion.

Chair Roy adjourned for lunch at 12:06 p.m. Chair Roy called the meeting back to order at 1:05 p.m.

She addressed the [letter from the Vermont Council on Special Education to State Board Chair, John Carroll](#). There were question/discussion. Chair Roy asked AG members to find out what conversations have happened with their respective memberships on PD and be prepared to report back.

Discussion (continued)

Chair Roy asked for ideas of what needs to be incorporated into the report to the General Assembly, due in January. There were suggestions and discussion on what to include in the report.

Chair Roy addressed future agenda items for the months of December, January and February. Chair Roy thanked Mace, as this was her last official meeting in her present capacity, for her leadership around FEG and for helping to focus the group and make its work more productive. Mace introduced her successor, Sue Ceglowski.

Adjourn

Chair Roy adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Gaidys.
