

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting  
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Members: Monica Hutt, State Chief Prevention Officer; Janet McLaughlin, Commissioner for Children and Families designee; Ilisa Stalberg, Commissioner of Health designee; Laurel Omland, Commissioner of Mental Health designee; Alison Thomas; Secretary of Natural Resources designee; Nate Formalarie, Secretary of Commerce and Community Development designee; Nicole Miller, Vermont Afterschool Executive Director; and Kendal Smith, Governor's Office.

### DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** Alison Thomas; Secretary of Natural Resources designee; Nate Formalarie, Secretary of Agency of Commerce and Community Development designee; Nicole Miller, Vermont Afterschool (VAS) Executive Director; Ilisa Stalberg, Commissioner of Health; Kendal Smith, Governor's Office; and Laurel Omland, Commissioner of Mental Health designee (joined at 3:26 p.m.)

**Agency of Education (AOE):** Heather Bouchey, Interim Secretary of Education; Jess DeCarolis, Student Pathways Division Director; Johannes Haensch, Extended Learning Opportunities Program Manager – Expanded Learning Opportunities; Emanuel Betz, 21CLC Coordinator; Brad James, Education Finance Director; Bob Coathup, Grants Manager; and Maureen Gaidys, Administrative Services Coordinator.

**Members of the public/others:** Gabrielle Malina; Jolie Frechette/Morris Strategies

### ***Call to Order, Roll Call, Amendments to Agenda***

Smith called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and took roll call. Present: Smith, Stalberg, Thomas, Formalarie, Miller. There were no amendments.

### ***Approve [Draft Meeting Minutes from September 25, 2023](#)***

Miller moved to approve the September 25, 2023 minutes; Formalarie seconded. The motion carried.

### ***Public to be Heard***

There were none.

### ***Continued discussion on upcoming grant details***

Smith recapped the last meeting: the review of the grant application, the sticking point of the budget language that stated that eligible recipients can be private, non-profit and public entities, and longstanding law that directs Education Fund dollars. She said after much legal counsel, there is a path forward to open a grant competition now, while pursuing a technical fix via the Budget Adjustment Act.

Bouche spoke about the move of the cannabis funds to the Education Fund and that might have been an oversight because the budget language is so clear. She agreed that we don't want to move forward in a way that is inappropriate, but that the budget language is clear, and we can move forward with setting up the grant as intended, and in the meantime figure out how to correct the language.

There was discussion on grants being open this fall to all applicants previously discussed or limited, ensuring that Education Funds can be released, fixing this prior to the start of the legislative session, using the Budget Adjustment Act if necessary, starting the grant program and not releasing funds, running these grants the typical way through Local Education Agencies (LEAs) is contrary to the desire to use a mixed delivery system, additional cost of this work and need for solution, considering pathways outside of Education Fund dollars, sources of funds governed by different rules, needing a legislative fix confirmed, need for transparency, not supporting moving forward with a competition unless non-LEAs could be considered eligible applicants

Smith said there has been legal consultation and there are some paths forward. She spoke about the goal being a mixed delivery system and this is important, and the advisory committee will continue to understand risks and options in their advisory role to AOE.

Smith asked if there were other questions about the grant outline or any updates to the outline. DeCarolis spoke about the existing outline having no changes. There is an application that is being distilled and priorities are likely not to change. AOE is working within the constraints governing the funds to the best ability to realize the goals. She acknowledged that question about data and how this might be supported via a legislative fix and how different groups, with different structures, collect and report data and how this data is cross-referenced. AOE will be working on providing significant technical assistance to create an account in the Grants Management System (GMS). The source of funds will be a good clarification to proceed.

Smith shared the [Draft Proposal Outline for Grant Program](#) and asked for feedback, questions, etc. There were questions/discussion on clarification of program licensure through the Child Development Division (CDD) as that would offer a benefit of accessing the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) to help lower the cost for families, useful to consider waivers to avoid duplicative monitoring/oversight, barriers to afterschool and summer programs, opt-in for licensure, different tracks are designed for maximum flexibility, access to CCFAP is important, need sustainable source of funding, and this advisory committee making a recommendation on regulatory oversight.

Smith recapped that the group needs to determine who can apply/receive these funds and the group also needs to get guidance from CDD. She asked AOE if they are still planning to

move forward with the grant application by the end of October. DeCarolis said the timeline will likely have to shift until there is better clarity and that a briefing on the timeline of the legislative fix could also be helpful. The desire was to move in advance of the legislative session, but if we are not launching within the current design, the launch would probably be the spring. Smith said additional conversation will be needed as the desire is to move forward prior to the session as there is a lull of state support funds for summer and afterschool.

### ***Other Business***

Smith opened the discussion to other business or updates. Miller shared that there is an upcoming [Vermont Afterschool Conference](#) on November 2 and 3, 2023, at Lake Morey Resort. This is open to anyone working with youth - in the summer, afterschool, weekends, etc.

### ***Adjourn***

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Maureen Gaidys.

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