

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
Call In: 1-802-828-7667
Conference ID: 487 364 880#

Members: Monica Hutt, State Chief Prevention Officer; Janet McLaughlin, Commissioner for Children and Families designee; Ilisa Stahlberg, 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

Advisory Committee (AC) Members Present: Ilisa Stahlberg, Laurel Omland, Ali Thomas, Nate Formalarie, Nicole Miller, Janet McLaughlin, Monica Hutt, and Kendal Smith.

Agency of Education (AOE): Heather Bouchey, Interim Secretary; Emanuel Betz; Johannes Haensch; Maureen Gaidys

Members of the public/others: Tara Howe, Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL).

Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call, Amendments to Agenda

Smith called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and took roll call. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Approve [Draft Meeting Minutes from August 22, 2023](#)

Omland moved to approve the meeting minutes; Miller seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved.

Public to be Heard

There were no members of the public to be heard.

Review outline of upcoming grant opportunity

Smith reviewed this [draft proposal outline of the grant funding program](#).

She reminded this group that they are advisory to the AOE and that AOE will be posting the Request for Proposal (RFP) and administering the process.

Interim Secretary Bouchey noted that in this current outline the eligible applicants are Local Education Agencies (LEAs). She wanted everyone to know that is not the intention. AOE is grappling with the fact that these funds have been appropriated to the Education Fund and

the Education Fund has its own stipulations on how funds can be distributed (through LEAs). The intent of the budget language is that many types of applicants can apply. AOE is getting legal guidance on this, and the plan is to move towards a mixed delivery system. Smith formally invited Haensch and Betz to offer input since they assisted with the drafting of this document.

Smith reviewed the Fall and Spring Timelines. Betz shared that the 21C application was released September 14, 2023 and the letters of intent are due just before Thanksgiving – the idea of having all available funds out to the state on a concurrent schedule was part of the plan and there has been a large response from applicants this year. Interim Secretary Bouchey added that AOE is moving speedily to recruit two new positions dedicated to this work. There was discussion on having one grant period and/or one application period and that the awards are for three years.

Smith reviewed Statutory Language and spoke about the work in progress around broadening the language of Eligible Applicants. Smith reviewed the Award Amount and Duration. Currently, there is \$4 million available, minus administrative funds; \$2 million is available under this grant. Last time there was discussion on keeping some aside to keep this moving and/or make adjustments as needed. There are two tracks that allow for differentiated need and variety and flexibility of need. Track A will allow for smaller investments to expand programs and Track B is focused strategically on a single center start-up design for those with low capacity and high needs. Both are delivered with partner and community members. This also addresses a statewide critique of funding amounts, as \$15,000 is enough to create an effect in smaller communities with more limited capacity.

There was discussion on funding needing to flow through an LEA, pressure on LEAs and possibility of them having administrative support, afterschool comprehensive center, flexibility with such center, integration with community schools model, not excluding programs that don't have a brick and mortar center, defining "center", thinking outside the box, center is defined by services not location, clarification of "center" in the application, definition of "comprehensive" and defining that earlier in the document, needing a third track for program start-up, and that the total award amount is three times the annual amount.

Smith reviewed the Requirements and Priorities. Betz gave context on Absolute Priority 2B and said this measure is more inclusive of high need communities. There was discussion on meeting all/some of the priorities, training the reviewers, scoring the needs, scoring between Track A and Track B, determining factors for different tracks, equity language, using this same tracking structure with three cycles of ARP-ESSER funding, delineation of funding for tracks, within the track requirements there are differentiated expectations that are comparable but not identical, and weaving different funding streams and regulations which can be complicated.

Smith reviewed the sections on Location of Programs, Leadership, and Duration. There was discussion on concern with language around location of programs (feels school-heavy), if licensure is required through the Child Development Division (CDD) or if there is an exemption, minimum requirements for program quality, flexibility, and compliance.

Smith reviewed the section Duration and Partners.

Smith reviewed Historically Marginalized Groups and Mixed Delivery System. Interim Secretary Bouchey noted that she did not want to truncate this important discussion because of time. Smith noted that this definition needs to continue to evolve.

Smith reviewed Allowable Uses of Funds and said it was similar to the last grant funding opportunity.

Smith asked if there were any final comments. Omland asked about “contracts that support programming” and if that includes consultation of how programs are meeting needs of marginalized students. McLaughlin shared the [Afterschool Program Regulations](#) and asked about the fee-free clause and to discuss this as it relates to the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) as a sustainable funding source. Interim Secretary Bouchey offered that we should discuss program reporting and what data/information is desired to be collected and balance this with the fact that this is new – and look to our anticipated future state and think about the return on investment in terms of input and output.

Smith thanked the AOE for their work and the direction that this is headed. She will continue to work on the eligible applicant piece over the next few weeks. She asked that anyone who had more thoughts/feedback to send them to her and she will forward to AOE.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Maureen Gaidys.