

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
Call In: 1-802-828-7667
Conference ID: 598 962 31#

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: Janet McLaughlin, Commissioner for Children and Families designee; Laurel Omland, Commissioner of Mental Health designee; Nate Formalarie, Secretary of Agency of Commerce and Community Development designee; Nicole Miller, Vermont Afterschool (VAS) Executive Director; Kendal Smith, Governor's Office; Monica Hutt; Chief Prevention Officer (joined at 10:16 a.m.).

Agency of Education (AOE): Heather Bouchey, Interim Secretary of Education; Jess DeCarolis, Student Pathways Division Director; Johannes Haensch, Extended Learning Opportunities Program Manager; Emanuel Betz, 21C Community Learning Center Coordinator, and Maureen Gaidys, Administrative Services Coordinator.

Members of the public/others: Tara Howe, Vocational Rehabilitation Regional Manager; Sandra Cameron, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA); Jolie Frechette, Morris Strategies.

Call to Order, Roll Call, Amendments to Agenda

Smith called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and took roll call. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Approve [Meeting Minutes from October 11, 2023](#)

Miller moved to approve the minutes; Formalarie seconded. The motion carried.

Public to be Heard

Sandra Cameron, VSBA addressed the group. She served on the Universal Afterschool Advisory Council and is interested in how that council's recommendations are being addressed by this group and what the implications might be for Local Education Agencies (LEAs).

Continued Discussion on Upcoming Grant Details

Smith reminded the group that their responsibility is to provide feedback to the AOE, who will be implementing this grant program.

Interim Secretary Bouchey spoke about how the funding was assigned – and thanked DeCarolis and the AOE team for identifying that there was a challenge in having funds appropriated to the Education Fund. They have since met the Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) and several legislators and have a plan for moving forward in line with the original design to offer grants to both LEAs and non-profits. Several solutions were discussed. It has tentatively been decided that there will be a special fund, created through the Budget Adjustment Act (BAA), and after that the funds will no longer be going to the Education Fund, but instead to this other fund. The BAA will be enacted upon passage (it is not a bill that needs to wait until the end of the session). This is not perfect, but there is a need to be transparent and the application will not be restricted.

Smith clarified that the funds would not be able to be distributed until the BAA passes. There was discussion on awarding monies to LEAs and not non-profits, that this project is a partnership and that has always been the intent, and none of these funds are meant solely for LEAs. Miller expressed appreciation for all involved in finding a solution. Smith said they are working with the Budget Office and JFO to confirm that going forward, the projected \$2.3 million in cannabis tax revenue for October, will go into this special fund. This is being actively discussed. There was discussion that all cannabis funds will go into the special fund after the BAA passes, fiscal mechanics play a big part in moving the funds from the Education Fund and creating the special fund, the timeline, when decisions would be made, desire is to develop a true mixed delivery model, challenge is obligation to hold back grant award for non-LEAs, additional jobs posted for AOE, target date for opening applications (mid-December, possibly), that this will expedited, this is a priority for the administration, working with the committees of jurisdiction, confirmation of intent that this money is for non-LEAs as well as LEAs, doing preparatory work so that this will move quickly once the session resumes, and that the BAA is usually fast tracked.

Smith asked if there was anything to be added to the [Afterschool and Summer Learning Advisory Council Draft Proposal](#) that was discussed at the last few meetings.

McLaughlin asked if there had been a revision and acknowledged the connection with the Child Development Division (CDD). There was discussion funding flexibility, mixed delivery model, inclusivity, definition of historically marginalized groups, LGBTQ is represented in the application/outline, support around technical components of Grants Management System (GMS), translation of definitions, Professional Development,

Cameron was recognized and asked who oversees/monitors for non-LEAs once the funds go directly to the non-LEAs. There was discussion on program alignment, special fund operations will be similar to General Fund operations, 21C programs serve students on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOE), oversight and support at the state level, expectation of accountability, concern of duplication of requirements, prioritizing accessibility/equity/access with application, great opportunity to build equity and access into the system, potential opportunity for control and shared

resources when this runs through LEAs, access to special education grants as a resource, ensuring that programs are leveraging all available resources.

Smith said the priority is to continue to push to get this next round of funding out. In an upcoming meeting, the subcommittee on youth employment/career exploration will be reconstituted to address ways to engage aging youth, and how to supplement and support existing work in this arena. She thanked everyone for their time and wished Miller well with the upcoming Afterschool conference of this week.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Maureen Gaidys

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