

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting  
Call In: 1-802-828-7667  
Conference ID: 391 637 94#

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; Ilisa Stalberg, Commissioner of Health designee; Alison Thomas; Secretary of Natural Resources designee

**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 Suzanne Sprague, Administrative Services Coordinator.

**Members of the public/others:** Tara Howe, Vocational Rehabilitation Regional Manager; Jolie Frechette, Morris Strategies; Gabrielle M. Malina.

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

Smith called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. and took roll call. She invited the AOE to introduce themselves. Smith asked to modify the order of items on the agenda and move the Youth Employment/Career Exploration Subcommittee to follow the Public to be Heard since Howe may have to exit the meeting early. There was consensus to accept this change from the committee.

#### **Approve Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2023**

McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes; Formalarie seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

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

None

### ***Youth Employment/Career Exploration Subcommittee***

Smith provided background of the previous iteration of the committee called the After School and Summer Task Force. She said they had several subcommittees. The most consistent subcommittee was called the Youth Employment Subcommittee that is currently active. The subcommittee recognized that older youth aged out of the traditional summer camp experience and the need to keep these youth engaged, active and able to explore passions. The plan is to engage older youth in employment opportunities or career exploration type activities if that is of interest to them. The goal is to supplement existing activities already employed by other agencies and departments. Smith would like to reconstitute the committee under a new name and name Howe as its chair.

Howe reviewed the subcommittee's work plan which is to build workforce skills, financial wellness and career awareness through universal after school and summer expansion efforts by creating meaningful and supportive job experiences for older youth including traditionally marginalized groups. She said members are Nate Formalarie, Nat Piper from Hire Ability, James Paradises from Senator Sanders' Office, Ethan Lawrence from Senator Sanders' Office, Ali Thomas from Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Tracy Verge from the Vermont Department of Labor, Nicole Miller and Katie O'Shea from Vermont After School. Howe would like to add a member from the AOE as well.

Discussion occurred regarding the subcommittee being action-based but now is advisory to the AOE, AOE membership would solve the issue, continuing the actual practical work of the subcommittee, youth representation, State Youth Council, asking youth that have participated in the pilot programs, two youth members instead of one and compensation or per-diem for youth members. Further discussion continued regarding partnering with the McClure Foundation, RAYS (Raise Awareness for Youth Services) Program, Advance Vermont and reconvening the youth subcommittee for the State Workforce Development Board.

A consensus vote of the committee was taken to reconstitute the Youth Employment Subcommittee to the Youth Career Exploration Subcommittee with chair and membership as previously discussed. The vote passed.

### ***Continued Discussion on Upcoming Grant Details***

DeCarolis provided a grant and general work status update. She said interviews are scheduled for the program coordinator position. The data position interviews will be handled by the AOE's Data Management and Analysis Division. The second round of interviews should occur in about three weeks. DeCarolis is anticipating a December 29<sup>th</sup> launch date of the grant program. Applications will close on March 6<sup>th</sup> and announcements and award dates are contingent on the determination of the of the General Assembly (GA) and the passage of the Budget Adjustment Act (BAA).

DeCarolis said that there are three absolute priorities, related to the issues around and the evidence of no or limited after school program options, within the grant application with the requirement that applicants hit two out of the three. The priorities have been cross walked with Act 78. The priorities maintain the sense of connection and opportunity for scale and sustainability; applicants are encouraged to connect with other sources of funds at the federal or state level. DeCarolis shared a document that showed the continuity of recommendations that have been made over time. It described the program development or expansion of 21C

to provide a comparison and to demonstrate a potential option or next steps for awardees who seek to develop comprehensive centers. Developing a specific program versus an actual site would be about \$15,000 to \$60,000 versus center development, which would be about \$50,000 to \$150,000 with the idea that applicants could apply for up to one of each. Discussion followed regarding the definition of center, building towards sustainability, maximizing flexibility, three absolute priorities, different dynamic with 21C competition, mindful of new places and smaller places that need support and services, using the funds as intended, being able to sustain predictable programming, end of ARP ESSER funds, expect significant demand, this is the first time State funds have been made available and focus on sustaining what was built, fees, childcare and financial assistance.

### ***Other Business***

Discussion topics for future meetings include oversight, data collection, not duplicating demand on recipients, drafting out and mapping the different data categories and how to promote the opportunity. The next meeting is December 14, 2023.

### ***Adjourn***

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Suzanne Sprague

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