

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: Janet McLaughlin, Commissioner for Children and Families 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, VDH, Director for Family and Child Health.

Agency of Education (AOE): Heather Bouchey, Interim Secretary of Education; Maureen Gaidys, Administrative Services Coordinator.

Members of the public/others: Tara Howe, Vocational Rehabilitation Regional Manager (joined at 12:05 p.m.)

Call to Order, Roll Call, Amendments to Agenda

Smith called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m. and took roll call. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Approve [November 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes](#)

Miller moved to approve the minutes; McLaughlin seconded. Chair Smith called the vote. The motion carried.

Public to be Heard

There were no members of the public to be heard.

Work Status Update on Grant

- *Status re: 12/29 Launch*
- *Promotion Plan & Opportunities*

Interim Secretary Bouchey reported that the grant was on track; there were a few nuanced

wording changes around ensuring that language aligned with statute. Recruitment is under way for the Programs Manager and that will be followed by recruitment to fill the Data Position. The next step will be how to get the word out.

Hutt shared that she recently attended a meeting with the Community Violence Prevention Grant where they were scoring proposals. She was struck with how many of them were afterschool programs and wondered if they should be redirected to After School programs. She asked for full list from VDH to share with this group because if they don't receive Community Violence Prevention funding, this Committee should figure out how to connect them with this grant opportunity and be considered for this grant as their proposals were very thorough and well-prepared. Hutt will bring this back once she has permission.

There was discussion on the geographic diversity of the applicant pool, flagging this upcoming grant opportunity for them, exciting to see afterschool programs named as a way to prevent community violence, gratitude that was recognized in that Request for Proposal (RFP), and one proposal mapped an increase in calls to the police department between the hours of 3-5 p.m.

There was discussion on how to promote this grant and get the broadest reach. Suggestions included: promotion on AOE website and to the education field, using connections in the childcare space, having a specific graphic for social media, and messaging concurrently that we cannot release any funds until passage of the Budget Adjustment Act is important.

There was discussion on full transparency, having talking points for consistent communication, a joint press release with AOE and Governor's Office, pressure on schoolboards as they build budgets, webinar for potential/interested applicants, creation of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, toolkit with graphic name and talking points, sharing with State Communicators group, connecting with Ted Fisher (AOE), VAS will use social media and target groups of providers (21C, licensed programs, Summer Matters grantees and teen centers), DCF will use Facebook page and reach out to partners (Building Bright Futures, Let's Grow Kids, Vermont Afterschool, Vermont Community Loan Foundation, municipalities, parks and recreation departments, etc.). Bouchey advised that AOE is currently not staffed for this program, and that assistance from the Advisory Committee would be appreciated until all is up and running. Smith will follow-up with Bouchey on this offline.

Data Collection: Moving forward, what are the data points that are important to collect?

- *What have we collected on afterschool initiatives funded with ESSER?*
- *What is mandated in Act 76 of 2023?*
- *What is mandated in Act 164 of 2020?*
- *Unduplicated data*

Smith spoke about moving forward and what data sets should be collected and the many ways that data is collected. Data is collected on students served, number of slots/hours created, if food/transportation is provided, etc. She asked the group to weigh in on what is being measured. There was a question about what is built into the RFP. McLaughlin said there are regulated Afterschool programs, AOE has data on 21C programs, and other

categories of programs where there is no consistent basis of information, and it would be helpful to get this data aligned to help target resources. There was discussion on using data to understand gaps in funding sources, Advisory Committee looking at current components of data collected and making recommendation to AOE, forecasting data that will be sought, and building a network of programs in underserved areas.

Smith suggested pulling all data that is already being collected and assessing it as a committee. Miller is interested in looking at benchmarks and progress and program reporting information. Hutt said data and outcomes need to be looked at on two levels: 1) what the programs are able to accomplish based on the funding that we give them and 2) progress measured for grant program.

Other Business

VAS is celebrating the Expanding Access Grant program – and it is very exciting to see the stories that are being shared and a few of these are included in the report. She asked the committee to acknowledge all the work that went into making this happen. Also finishing up the first round of grantees funded under the “Room for Me” grant and a second round of grantees were awarded in September. Grantees are spending down these funds and there are some funds left over that will be used for a minigrant that will go out in January.

Smith suggested going through the Expanding Access Report at the next meeting. This can be shared with Advisory Committee members prior to the next meeting.

McLaughlin shared that as of December 17, Childcare Financial Assistance rates will increase 35% and that is significant. DCF is scheduled for a mass certificate generation this weekend. Also, readiness payments were designed to support programs before Childcare Financial Assistance kicked in and 80% of eligible programs have applied. Formalarie reported that ACCD’s community revitalization program (\$50 million in grants) is ending -and it has added hundreds of childcare slots through a variety of different project around the state. Economic development is generating some good work. Miller shared that she met with State Youth Council recently and they are putting the final touches on recommendations to be shared with the Governor, some Cabinet members, and the Legislature in January.

Smith said the plan is to have this report presented to the Governor and Executive Cabinet members. She suggested that this group could receive the presentation from the State Youth Council as well, at the January or February meeting and have some dialog. Smith will work to schedule.

Smith said going forward, meetings will be once a month starting in January. There will be a Doodle poll forthcoming for the next 3-4 months.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Maureen Gaidys