

APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting Place: Hybrid Meeting Microsoft Teams platform (Virtual Meeting) and The Classroom at UVM Extension, 327 US-302, Barre Montpelier Rd. Barre, VT 05641

Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 (4:30 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.)

Present: Dawn Campbell, Alison, Rachel Seelig, Jacqui Kelleher, Molly McFaun, Meg Porcella, Sandra Chittenden, Susan Dreyer Leon, Teagen Comeau, Susan Comerford, Dana Lesperance, Kim McNamara, Tracy Rubman, Rene Sanchez Guest: Caleb Rockcastle, Cammie Naylor, Mack Gardner-Morse, Dan Stewart

Agenda:

4:30-4:40	Call to order, Review agenda, Updates from the Chair, Approve minutes
4:40-4:45	Public Comment
4:45-4:55	AOE Transition Updates
4:55-5:00	Update on Rule Change Implementation from AOE
5:00-5:15	Legislative Updates from Rachel Seelig
5:15-5:45	Presentation on Behavior Threat Assessment Teams by Dan Stuart, Managing Attorney for Education and Employment, National Disability Rights Network
5:45-6:30	Workgroups
6:30-6:40	Full Panel Workgroup Report out
6:40-7:30	Part 1 of AOE presentation of SPP/APR from Ana Russo
7:30-7:35	Public Comment
7:35	Adjourn

Call to order, Review agenda, Updates from the Chair, Approve minutes:

Dawn Campbell Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 4:35.
SEAP Chair Katie Ballard was absent today.

Public Comment:

Jacqui Kelleher was recognized and made public comment about [Vermont Digger article](#).

AOE Transition Updates:

Meg Porcella Interim Division Director for Student Support Services reported State Special Education Director applicants review and interviews at least 10 days out and Director of Division position need to be filled too. Susan requests that a couple members from the Panel be involved with interviews for State Director. Rachel stated there were questions sent to Secretary Bouchey on behalf of the Panel. Meg will ask again for the Panel to be involved. Remind Katie to send questions to Meg too. Secretary Agency on Education replacement is appointed by the Governor, the State Board of Education will conduct the search for the applicants and give their recommendation to the Governor after they do their interviews. There is a State Board of Education meeting in a couple of weeks, and I might know more then.

Update on Rule Change Implementation from AOE:

[Special Education Rules Change website](#)

AOE office hours on:

[Special Education Rule Changes and Adverse Effect Office Hours](#) April 20, 2023, from 3:00pm-4:00pm [prior meeting questions](#)

[Special Education Rule Changes and Specific Learning Disabilities](#) May 4, 2023, from 3:00pm-4:00pm [prior meeting questions](#)

[Special Education Rule Changes and Specially Designed Instruction](#) May 18, 2023, from 3:00pm-4:00pm [prior meeting questions](#)

Vermont Family Network and Agency of Education will work collaborate to do Family, guardian, Parent Information Sessions 3 Wednesdays in May VFN Town Hall on:

May 17 – “Rule Implementation”, May 24 –“Special Education Evaluation/Eligibility Changes”, May 31 – “Specific Learning Disability Eligibility Changes” at 10:00-11:00 am for sessions. [Register for the “Special Education Rule Changes Series”](#) Participants will register once and can use the same Zoom link for any of the three sessions they would like to attend.

Legislative Updates from Rachel Seelig:

Rachel Seelig provided background on legislative process. The week of Town Meeting Day is considered the beginning of what is called Crossover = if there are bills that are not about money, they have 1 week passed out to their committee and to the whole floor if it’s a money bill they have 2 weeks. A couple bills of interest are: [S138](#): School safety bill has 4 parts to it- drills for options-based drills, for active shooter situations, blocking buildings so that they are secure. But the section that’s gotten some attention is about what are called Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams (BTAT).

[H409](#): That is about the use of restraint and seclusion in schools, the House Ed is taking testimony looking for input to determine if changes are needed. Katie has and has shared with the Agency. Rachel testified and made recommendations to expanding the collection of Rule 4500 reports so that we have statewide data, prohibiting prone restraints, having some more oversight through perhaps a data collection, having a Training Advisory Committee, a complaint process and real way of getting restraints and seclusions monitored. I don’t think they will adjourn and bring this back next January.

[H483](#) Provides changes to rules around the way that independent schools are funded. Legislature questions please contact me [Rachel](#).

Presentation on Behavior Threat Assessment Teams by Dan Stuart, Managing Attorney for Education and Employment, National Disability Rights Network:

Dan Stewart Managing Attorney at the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), We are the Membership Organization for the Protection and Advocacy Systems in each of the States in the Federal Territories, along with the Native American Protection and Advocacy Organization. NDRN has been invited to participate in Threat Assessment Panels at the National level and in some other areas across the Nation. [NDRN Threat Assessment in Schools](#).

Threat Assessments and Risk Assessments are not the same. Threat Assessments are narrow and focused on a small window of time. Threat Assessments are broader and can encompass more things (environmental threats, biohazards, pandemics). If you are researching articles, make sure to put in school based or behavior threat assessments.

Workgroups:

SEAP- Breakout Room 1-Critical Staff Shortage, SEAP- Breakout Room 2- Exclusionary Discipline, SEAP- Breakout Room 3- Role/Use of Independent Schools -technology prevented smooth transition to breakouts and back to main meeting. We will work on these issues.

Full Panel Workgroup Report out:

Not enough time to report out.

Part 1 of AOE presentation of SPP/APR from Ana Russo:

Ana presented on Indicator 5: Education Environments Children 5-21 [Indicator 5 Feedback Form](#)
Helpful tool for calculations [School-Age Educational Environment Calculation Example](#). Ana will be checking AOE Data Manager- when the students school days are shortened from those 6 1/2 hours to 3 hours. Where are those other 3.5 hours? Homebound placements, especially for students who are temporarily homebound while they're waiting for a separate school placement or who have been placed there as an interim alternative education setting. And then it goes long past 45 days. Three hours home bound and then 3 1/2 hours in the general education classroom. Shouldn't they be categorized as homebound? If that is? Because that would be less than 80% or at least part of their school day. Shortened school days ?
Jacqui suggested that homebound instruction is a topic that we need to put on our agenda. Dawn concurred.

Public Comment:

Susan Aranoff from the VT Developmental disability made a public comment about homebound and the role and use of independent therapeutic schools. Would like the panel to look at the data both numbers and anecdotal around the length of time spent out of school placements and the ability to transition back.

Adjourn:

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Schedule (hold the date):

[May 11, 2023](#) (Hybrid), 4:30pm-7:35pm

[June 1, 2023](#) (In-person) 10:00am-4:05pm

Agency of Transportation (AOT)

VTTC Room 114 A&B; AOT, 1716 US-302, Berlin, VT 05602