

## Agenda

ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 4, 2021

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM

Zoom (email [kate.larose@vermont.gov](mailto:kate.larose@vermont.gov) for meeting access)

- 12:15 pm – 12:17 pm**      **Introductions** (Sam Liss, Chair)
- 12:17 pm – 12:18 pm**      **Approval of Agenda** (Sam Liss)
- 12:18 pm – 12:20 pm**      **Open for Public Comment**
- 12:20 pm – 12:22 pm**      **Approval of Minutes** (Sam Liss)  
[Minutes from January 7, 2021](#)  
[Minutes from February 4, 2021](#)
- 12:22 pm – 12:56 pm**      **[Legislative Updates](#)** (Group)  
**Federal Legislation**  
1) Further COVID-19 Legislative Response  
2) [Biden Disability Plan](#)
- State Legislation**  
1) Hearing Aid Insurance Mandate ([H. 266](#))  
2) 2021 Budget  
3) First Responders Commission- DAIL/VR Participation  
4) Monitor Protections for Low-Income/Vulnerable Vermonters  
5) Attendant Services Program (ASP)
- 12:56 pm - 1:16 pm**      **[Brainstorming Ideas on Using Legislative Handout](#)**
- 1:16 pm - 1:21 pm**      **Calendar of Upcoming Events** (Group)
- 1:21 pm – 1:40 pm**      **Other Business** (Group)  
1) Change in CDR Rules: Update  
2) Olmstead Webinar on Housing  
3) VFN Dual Enrollment Webinar
- 1:40 pm – 1:45 pm**      **Vote: Chair** (Martha Frank)
- 1:45 pm**      **Adjournment** (Chair)

# Vermont State Rehabilitation Council

## We Urge the Legislature to Pass H.266

*"Health Coverage for Hearing Loss (H.266): AARP VT is working with a newly formed coalition, named "Hear!Hear!VT", to address the lack of health care insurance coverage for hearing loss in Vermont. We are the only state in New England that does not require private insurance to cover hearing loss. This bill proposes to require Medicaid, the State Employees Health Plan, and large group health insurance plans to provide coverage for hearing aids beginning in plan year 2022. It would also direct the Agency of Human Services to apply for federal approval to modify the essential health benefit package for Vermont's individual and small group health insurance plans to include coverage for hearing aids beginning in plan year 2023."*



The Vermont State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) endorses the above statement released by the Vermont Chapter of the AARP and would like to add:

The need for many individuals to have access to hearing aids to compensate for hearing loss is essential for cost-effective independent living which, in many cases, entails employment. Employment opportunities are enhanced and both the individuals and society benefit in many ways.

Appropriate hearing aids and timely repairs eliminate unnecessary falls and fractures and evidence also suggests that such devices prevent or delay onset of dementia.

The SRC supports this cost-effective and humane legislation.

For more information visit:

[www.src.vermont.gov](http://www.src.vermont.gov)

Or contact:

[Sarah Launderville](#), Chair  
Vermont SRC

[Sam Liss](#), Committee Chair  
SRC [Advocacy, Outreach and Education Committee](#)

