

Approved Agenda

ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 1, 2022

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM

Zoom (email janice.leonard@vermont.gov for meeting access)

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|----------------------------|--|
| 12:15 pm – 12:17 pm | Introductions (Cari Kelley, AOE Chair) |
| 12:17 pm – 12:18 pm | Approval of Agenda (Cari Kelley) |
| 12:18 pm – 12:20 pm | Open for Public Comment |
| 12:20 pm – 12:25 pm | Approval of Minutes (Cari Kelley)
Minutes from May 5, 2022 |
| 12:25 pm – 12:45 pm | Discussion: Upcoming Priorities and Partners (Group) |
| 12:45 pm - 12:55 pm | Discussion: Legislative Toolkit (Group) |
| 12:55 pm - 1:05 pm | Upcoming Events (Group) |
| 1:05 pm – 1:20 pm | Other Business (Group)
Agenda Setting: November 3, 2022 |
| 1:20 pm | Adjournment (Cari Kelley) |

What would you like the priorities of your committee to be in the year ahead?

- New branding work, important for the committee to help advertise and promote with consumers, and handing materials out
- VFN is having an in person meeting next year in Chittenden County and would like to promote and attend that gathering.
- We miss seeing people in person and it would be good to see people in person again. Would like to consider a hybrid model for meetings.
- Would like to address the red-tape of being a consumer of VR (for example in order to get a PASS plan one needs to prove all over again that they're too disabled to work), of Social Security, state programs, and other benefits. Navigating it all is a full-time job and people would get further if the systems were simplified and less overwhelming. AOE could join with other groups to attempt to collaborate on an advocacy plan to demand bureaucratic reform.
- To assist with the above, AOE could invite Betsy Choquette and James Smith to come to a meeting and provide a historic perspective/context and help us prioritize which aspects to work on first and we could work with our Congressional delegation. VR's benefits counselors are also a resource that could help.
- We want to ensure that VR stays within DAIL.
- AOE wants to focus on opportunities for advocacy and outreach efforts in communities and around the state and re-align with the mission statement: How can we be more active and engaged? We want to help more and not exactly sure how to do this. We want to focus on a structural piece of this, create plans and execute plans.
- We would like a closer relationship with VCDR and move things on that platform that are important to this committee.
- Create an update of our Legislative priorities for the year
- Continue to host a card room event at the state legislature
- Support the roll out and promotion of "Our Time is Now".

What are the goals and action steps to get there, and what should our roles be?

- Connect more with VCDR and tie into their work.
- Focus on a vision of a changed world- we need a vision of what that world will be and work backwards to meet that. Our group can have immense power to benefit VR consumers and removing barriers.
- Use the rebranded material to educate the general public about VR issues and to advocate to the legislature.
- We want to follow how elected officials are voting on pieces of legislation.
- Getting the word out that VR even exists and making connections in schools as many families are not familiar with VR.
- Ensuring that we have at least one person at all VCDR meetings.
- Cari and Courtney are interested in connecting to VCDR moving forward.