

**Draft Minutes**  
ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
Thursday, March 3, 2022  
12:15 PM – 1:45 PM  
Waterbury State Office Building, Ash and Zoom

**Meeting called by:**

Cari Kelley called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

**Members Present:**

- Ana Kolbach
- Asher Edelson
- Bill Meirs
- Cara Sachs
- Cari Kelley
- Courtney Blasius
- Emily Marie Ahtúnan
- Helena Kehne
- Martha Frank
- Sarah Launderville
- Sherrie Brunelle

**Members Absent:**

- Calla Papademas
- Diane Dalmasse (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Laura Siegel

**SRC Liaison:**

- Amanda Arnold

**SRC Coordinator:**

- Kate Larose

**Speakers or Presenters:**

- n/a

**Guests:**

- Heather Batalion

**Interpreters**

None

### **1) Introductions** (Cari Kelley, AOE Chair)

**Discussion:**

Those in attendance went around the table and introduced themselves.

**Conclusions:**

Thanks to everyone!

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

None

### **2) Approval of Agenda** (Cari Kelley)

**Discussion:**

Cari asked for any proposed additions or changes to the agenda. Courtney moved to accept the agenda and it was seconded. No further discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 11-0-0

**Conclusions:**

Motion passes: today's agenda accepted

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

None

### **3) Open for Public Comment** (Cari Kelley)

**Discussion:**

No members of the public were present.

**Conclusions:**

n/a

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

None

### **4) Approval of Minutes January 6, 2022** (Cari Kelley)

**Discussion:**

Cari asked for any proposed changes or amendments to the [Minutes from January 6, 2022](#). Sherrie moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous 11-0-0

**Conclusions:**

January 6, 2022 minutes were approved.

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

- Approved minutes uploaded to SRC website, **Kate Larose**, 3/7/2022

## 5) Legislative Updates (Group)

### Discussion:

- A. [Federal Legislation](#)
- B. [State Legislation](#)
- C. [VCDR Update](#)

Cari referenced the state and legislative updates detailed above.

Emily asked about [H.703](#) on workforce development that Sherrie had shared with the AOE last week. Sherrie said her intent in sharing the legislation was to make members aware and to ensure people with disabilities were adequately represented. Emily shared [this recent commentary](#) that was in Digger.

Asher asked about H.266 and said that he had reached out to all members of House Health Care. Testimony was taken in committee [last week](#). The video recording of that testimony is [available here](#) for February 24, 2022.

Sarah said that disability has recently been added to the truth and reconciliation bill [H.96](#) on eugenics. A task force has been formed to help draft next steps.

Cara asked about legislation related to no-cause eviction as it likely disproportionately impacts people with disabilities. Safe, smokefree housing needs to be available for people with disabilities.

Sarah said she recently provided testimony on [H.661](#) on licensure of mental health clinicians, [S.195](#) so peer mental health workers can bill Medicaid, as well as legislative accessibility and access issues to the [House Discrimination Prevention Panel](#).

### Conclusions:

See above.

### Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Make VCDR aware of H.703 at next meeting, **Cari Kelley**, 3/7/2022

## 6) Discussion: Transportation (Group)

### Discussion:

Cari provided an update on several recent meetings. A few weeks ago Cari, Sheri, and Kate met with Ross MacDonald at AOT to learn more about their efforts after the 2020 transportation summit the SRC was invited to. It turns out they had a summit in 2021 and are planning another summit for June 2022. Information about both can be [found here](#). Ross shared his surprise that there has been any negative feedback about the micro transit pilot and said he hasn't heard that feedback. This morning Cari also met with Erin Oalican, the director of the state's Reach Up program, and learned that they buy approximately 65

cars a year for clients. Sherrie said that sounds like a program that should be replicated. Cari is also now on the transportation disability committee for Franklin/Grand Isle.

Cari shared that P&P and AOE Committees both have recently expressed an interest in creating an adhoc work group which AOE will be moving forward and for our time today we want to determine the focus of that group and think through who else should be part of the group. Though the majority of members of the working group should be SRC members, there is potential for additional members from outside the SRC. A large group discussion followed:

What questions would you like this working group to answer?

- How might we create a system that ensures for car purchases that best meet individual needs?
- How can VR clients get low-barrier access to sustainable transportation?
- Identify one specific issue to start with and focusing on AOT and ensuring that people with disabilities and lived experience are heard, acknowledged, and can directly inform the design of transportation services (as it currently seems that they are choosing to ignore this input on micro transit and moving forward with a design that does not work).

What do you think the group's charge or deliverable should be?

- Create a continuum of transportation options and examine modes of accessible transportation (door to door).
- We need to know who is out there and what they're working on in terms of infrastructure, services, and advocacy efforts.

Who else do you think should be part of the working group or what other voices do you think need to be represented?

- Young people: Transportation is the key to employment and if we are not asking young people if they need specialized instruction then they often don't get licenses. This also needs to be addressed in collaboration with the AOE as part of transition planning.

Other considerations:

- What about autonomous vehicles?
- Accessible sidewalks are also key.
- There should be a requirement that anyone making a decision about transportation should have to use the service.
- Would like to see a process or mechanism for the SRC to be able to provide ongoing feedback to committees and policy makers making decisions.

**Conclusions:**

The decision was made to initially focus on micro transit. The working group efforts might result in an advocacy plan in advance of the next legislative meeting session.

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

- Create an initial list of interested working group members inside and outside of the SRC, **Cari Kelley**, 3/30/2022
- Add transportation to the next full SRC meeting agenda, **Amanda Arnold**, 3/30/2022

**7) Upcoming Events (Group)****Discussion:**

Cari shared that the first of VCDR's [Disability Awareness Day](#) events was held last month with legislators and attendance was good. The next event will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> and will focus on housing.

Cari also shared that SILC is looking for additional members to represent the SRC on their council. If anyone is interested, let Cari know.

**Conclusions:**

See above.

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

- Let Cari know if you are interested in participating on the SILC, **All AOE Members**, 4/1/2022

**8) Other Business (Group)****A. Agenda Setting: May 5, 2022****Discussion:**

Due to lack of time this item was not discussed.

**Conclusions:**

If you have agenda items for May 5<sup>th</sup> contact Cari.

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

- Contact Cari with any agenda items for the May 5<sup>th</sup> AOE Meeting, **All AOE Members**, 4/1/2022

**9) Adjournment (Cari Kelley)****Discussion:**

Sherrie moved to adjourn and it was seconded. All approved. Vote unanimous 11-0-0

**Conclusions:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

**Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:**

- Draft minutes uploaded to SRC website, **Kate Larose**, 3/7/2022
- Draft minutes emailed to Committee members, **Kate Larose**, 3/7/2022
- Minutes approved, **Committee**, 5/5/2022
- Approved minutes uploaded to website, **Amanda Arnold**, 5/10/2022