

**Draft Minutes**  
ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
Thursday, March 4, 2021  
12:15 PM – 1:45 PM  
via Zoom

**Meeting called by:**

Sam Liss, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

**Members Present:**

- Ana Kolbach
- Courtney Blasius
- Diane Dalmasse (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Sam Liss
- Martha Frank
- Cari Kelley
- Helena Kehne
- Asher Edelson
- Sherrie Brunelle
- Olivia Smith-Hammond
- Cara Sachs
- Bill Meirs
- Emily Marie Ahtúnan

**Members Absent:**

- Brian Smith
- Sarah Launderville

**SRC Liaison:**

None

**SRC Coordinator:**

- Kate Larose

**Interpreters:**

None

**Speakers or Presenters:**

None

**Guests:**

- Laura Siegel
- Lexia Stanley

### **1) Introductions** (Sam Liss)

**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** (Sam Liss)

**Discussion:**

Sam asked for any proposed additions or changes to the agenda. Cari moved to accept the agenda and it was seconded. No further discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 10-0-0

**Conclusions:**

Motion passes: today's agenda accepted

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

None

### **3) Open for Public Comment** (Sam Liss)

**Discussion:**

None

**Conclusions:**

n/a

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

None

### **4) Approval of Minutes** (Sam Liss)

**Discussion:**

Sam asked for any proposed changes or amendments to the [Minutes from January 7, 2021](#) and the [Minutes from February 4, 2021](#). There were none. Asher moved to accept the minutes and it was seconded. No further discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 10-0-0

**Conclusions:**

January 7, 2021 and February 4, 2021 minutes were approved

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

- Upload approved minutes to the SRC website, **Kate Larose**, 3/9/2021

## 5) Legislative Updates (Group)

### Discussion:

Sam walked through the [legislative updates](#) document sent out in advance. Some additional information and discussion followed.

Diane added that the American Relief Plan (ARP) will bring a lot of money to the state. Governor Scott requested that agencies submit lists of priorities for forthcoming federal funds. Diane shared that yesterday she submitted several proposals. These included:

- Ensuring COVID-related EAP services are available to small businesses free of charge.
- Providing for wage offsets for employers who sponsor apprenticeships programs
- Provision of no-cost VTC and community college tuition for those impacted by COVID to help move people to better paying jobs.

Diane said that next week she and Steve Dickens will attend a meeting regarding S. 42: Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission. It is unclear if the commission will be housed in the Department of Mental Health or Vermont Department of Health's Emergency Services Division.

### Conclusions:

See above.

### Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

n/a

## 6) Brainstorming Ideas on Using Legislative Handouts

Sam walked the committee through two handouts below:

- [SRC Legislative Priorities](#)
- [H.266 Statement of Support](#)

Cara said that a script or images to use on social media would be useful.

Laura will forward the social media graphics from Community of Vermont Elders (COVE) so that AOE committee members can use them to show their support of H.266.

Committee members agreed to focus their efforts on H.266 in the coming months.

Asher asked that a future meeting item include what members can do to improve access and knowledge of VR services. Diane said that the marketing

plan being created for VR would be a great fit and will help to answer many of these questions.

**Conclusions:**

Kate will forward the COVE social media graphics.

Diane and Sam to bring interest in marketing plan to the Steering Committee to place on a future full SRC meeting agenda.

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

- Place marketing plan presentation on future full SRC meeting agenda, **Sam Liss and Diane Dalmasse**, 3/4/2021
- Forward COVE graphics, **Kate Larose**, 3/9/2021
- Share legislative handouts as PDF and PNG files, **Kate Larose**, 3/9/2021

**7) Calendar of Upcoming Events (Group)**

**A. [April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> VFN Annual Conference](#)**

Martha shared that the theme this year is "Imagine, Inspire, Innovate".

Rachel Callander and Karen Gaffney will keynote. The conference will be held via Zoom and registration is free at the link above.

**B. Youth Summit**

Martha shared that the annual youth summit will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

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

- Share save the date with AOE Committee when available, **Kate Larose**

**8) Other Business (Chair)**

**A. Change in CDR Rules: Update**

Sam reported that the proposed changes under the Trump administration thankfully did not take effect. The result would have been kicking countless people off benefits. Advocates worked hard to keep this from happening.

**B. Olmstead Webinar on Housing**

Sam shared that it was a great event and will share the recording when it is made available. Cara was also able to attend and echoed Sam's comments.

**C. [VFN Dual Enrollment Webinar](#)**

Martha shared that the webinar was hosted on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> and the target audience was specifically parents. The numbers of youth with disabilities accessing dual enrollment is finally starting to climb and the gap is starting to close. She asked AOE members to help get the word out about the webinar.

**Conclusions:**

See above

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

- Share Olmstead webinar recording when available, **Kate Larose**

**9) Vote: Chair** (Martha Frank)

Sam asked Martha to assume this agenda item. Martha asked for nominations or self-nominations from the floor. Sam was nominated. Martha twice more requested nominations. Hearing none, and an Australian ballot not being necessary, voting was made by a voice vote. Martha asked all those in favor of re-electing Sam Liss as Chair of the AOE Committee to say Aye. All those not in favor to say Nay. Hearing none, Sam was elected as Chair. Vote unanimous 11-0-0

**Conclusions:**

Sam Liss was re-elected Chair

**10) Adjournment** (Sam Liss)

**Discussion:**

Cari moved to adjourn. All approved. Vote unanimous 11-0-0

**Conclusions:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

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

- Draft minutes uploaded to SRC website, **Kate Larose**, 3/9/2021
- Draft minutes emailed to Committee members, **Kate Larose**, 3/9/2021
- Minutes approved, **Committee**, 5/6/2021
- Approved minutes uploaded to website, **Kate Larose**, 5/6/2021