

Draft Minutes
ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 7, 2021
12:15 PM – 1:45 PM
via Zoom

Meeting called by:

Sam Liss, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:18 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

Members Absent:

- Brian Smith
- Sarah Lauderville

SRC Liaison:

None

SRC Coordinator:

- Kate Larose

Interpreters:

None

Speakers or Presenters:

None

Guests:

- Emily Marie Ahtúnan
- Laura Siegel

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. Sherrie moved to accept the agenda and it was seconded. No further discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 8-0-0

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 for November 5, 2020 (Sam Liss)

Discussion:

Sam asked for any proposed changes or amendments to the [November 5, 2020](#) minutes. There were none. Asher moved to accept the minutes and it was seconded. No further discussion. All approved. Vote unanimous 8-0-0

Conclusions:

November 5, 2020 minutes were approved

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Upload approved minutes to the SRC website, **Kate Larose**, 1/12/2021

5) Legislative Updates (Group)

Discussion:

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

Micro Transit Pilot in Montpelier

Diane shared the launch of the micro transit program. Asher requested additional information about the program. Diane suggested having Zoe Cartwright present at a future meeting. Sam invited members to the next SILC meeting on Jan 13th 1pm-3pm as micro transit will be on the agenda. Emily shared that she is hearing from her neighbors that they are boycotting micro transit due to negative impacts. Liv shared that she has heard similar challenges and concerns and that the original clients of the services (such as people living in housing authority developments) should be asked about their experiences and satisfaction in addition to new users of the program. Sam says that there has been some backlash and a petition. Emily shared that there are many people who do not have access to smart phones to book their rides and that—for people with mobility issues—there are added levels of stress in terms of having to be on a set schedule versus the dependability of a route. Liv shared that people can contact [Laura Brooke](#) for more information and Sam said they can also email [Tim Bradshaw](#). Laura shared that she would like to see a hybrid model being offered but that, based on her conversations with Laura Brooke, it sounded like they were locked into this model for the next six months. Liv underscored the need to focus on public transportation users who cannot drive. Cari noted the additional implications of access to transportation for those who have a service animal. (She shared the example of her daughter and Uber drivers sometimes not accepting her scooter or her dog.) Diane said VR will be pulling together a transportation work group and she will keep the committee apprised as they move forward. Emily said that it is important to talk to people who use the service before or while making major decisions about changes and that drivers should also be part of these discussions along with stakeholders. She added that it is important to note that transportation is more than about getting from point A to point B for a lot of people: it's socialization, helps decrease social isolation, and has a positive impact on mental health.

Hearing Aid Insurance Mandate

Sam said they are currently working on the draft and will be introduced by Lyons in the Senate and Noyes is sponsor in House. Sam thanked Asher for his advocacy. Asher shared that he has spoken with the following state elected officials: Sears, Whitman, and Nigro. He will have a conversation soon with Corcoran to ask for co-sponsorship.

Conclusions:

Include transportation on the next meeting agenda.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Share VR Ticket to Work response with AOE Committee, **Kate Larose**, 1/11/2021
- Consider including Zoe Cartwright on the next agenda, **Sam Liss**, 1/30/2021
- Share the quarterly SILC meeting invitation with AOE committee members, **Kate Larose**, 1/11/2021
- Request that a Ticket to Work and a Kessler update be shared with the full SRC, **Sam Liss and Diane Dalmasse**, 1/7/2021

6) Calendar of Upcoming Events (Group)

A. SILC Olmstead Webinar on Housing: January 26th

Happening from 10am-12pm. Event information can be found [here](#).

Conclusions:

See above

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Share save the date with AOE Committee, **Kate Larose**, 1/11/2021

7) Other Business (Chair)

A. SILC Networking: Youth Transition/Special Education:

Martha shared that the Youth Advisory Council will meet on January 21st to start planning for this year's youth summit. VFN is actively involved in the core transition team work, and all of the keynote speeches are available on the [VFN website](#) including the youth panel.

VFN is trying to get the word out on the [Include! curriculum](#) to schools and transition counselors. It's about inclusion as a whole, and addresses school climate.

Diane underscored the importance of what we heard at the last full SRC meeting on dual enrollment and said that it will be a priority for reallocation funding. Martha shared that they will be hosting a [webinar on dual enrollment](#) on February 25th so that families understand that this is an option for their students and it is open to all. All upcoming workshops can be [accessed here](#).

B. Major Rollout of "[Working w/Disability](#)" Project

Diane provided an update on the rollout. Diane, James, and Sarah will take the lead on coordination and they have an upcoming meeting to flesh this out. They will share updates at the next meeting.

Conclusions:

See above

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Invite Tara Howe to join the next AOE meeting, **Diane Dalmasse**, 1/30/2021

8) Adjournment (Sam Liss)

Discussion:

Cari moved to adjourn. All approved. Vote unanimous 10-0-0

Conclusions:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46pm

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Draft minutes uploaded to SRC website, **Kate Larose**, 1/12/2021
- Draft minutes emailed to Committee members, **Kate Larose**, 1/12/2021
- Minutes approved, **Committee**, 3/4/2021
- Approved minutes uploaded to website, **Kate Larose**, 3/9/2021