

Approved Minutes
ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 6, 2022
12:15 PM – 1:45 PM
Waterbury State Office Building, Ash and Zoom

Meeting called by:

Asher Edelson called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

Members Present:

- Ana Kolbach
- Asher Edelson
- Bill Meirs
- Cara Sachs
- Cari Kelley
- Courtney Blasius
- Diane Dalmasse (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Emily Marie Ahtúnan
- Laura Siegel
- Sarah Launderville
- Sherrie Brunelle

Members Absent:

- Calla Papademas
- Helena Kehne
- Martha Frank

SRC Liaison:

None

SRC Coordinator:

- Kate Larose

Speakers or Presenters:

- n/a

Guests:

- n/a

Interpreters

- Taylor Ofori
- Virginia Clark

1) Introductions (Asher Edelson)

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 (Asher Edelson)

Discussion:

Asher 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 9-0-0

Conclusions:

Motion passes: today's agenda accepted

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

None

3) Open for Public Comment (Asher Edelson)

Discussion:

No members of the public were present.

Conclusions:

n/a

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

None

4) Approval of Minutes November 4, 2021 (Asher Edelson)

Discussion:

Asher asked for any proposed changes or amendments to the [Minutes from November 4, 2021](#). Cari moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous 9-0-0

Conclusions:

November 4, 2021 minutes were approved.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Approved minutes uploaded to SRC website, **Kate Larose**, 1/11/2022

5) Legislative Updates (Group)

Discussion:

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

Asher referenced the state and legislative updates detailed above.

Sherrie asked if there is another source for federal legislative updates. Sarah said she can try to see what else might be available through NCIL and other sources to pull together.

Diane asked about status of hearing aid bill. Laura shared [the current bill language](#).

Sarah noted that the hearing aid bill is front and center in terms of importance for VCDR's legislative platform and focus headed into this year's legislative session.

Conclusions:

See above.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- See if there are other sources of federal updates to share, **Sarah Launderville**, 2/15/2022

6) Discussion and Vote: Advocacy Tools (Group)

Kate shared that the two documents below were created last year in response to a request from AOE committee members. The intent of both documents is to provide members with something to reference, email, or to serve as a script when they reach out to their Vermont state house and senate members. Both documents were previously approved by the full SRC and the documents below are substantively the same but include edits.

A. [Updated H.266 Statement of Support](#)

Kate shared that this document was updated from last year to include dollar amounts of expenditures from VR and data from the Assistive Technology program. Sarah said that she would like to include the expenditure total that VCIL has spent on hearing aids and she will send Kate that amount to add in to the document.

Sherrie moved to approve the document with the edit from Sarah and it was seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous to approve 9-0-0

B. [SRC 2022 Legislative Priorities](#)

Kate shared that this document was updated to reflect that the First Responders Wellness Commission was passed last year, so it was removed.

Emily asked how the SRC might be able to better advocate on focusing on equity for people with disabilities and how that can be monitored.

Sarah shared examples of how the SRC might engage legislators.

Diane wondered about opportunities to engage legislative counsel to ensure that they are writing draft legislation in ways that don't create unintended consequences for people with disabilities.

Cari reiterated the importance of serving rural Vermonters with disabilities and addressing geographic equity.

Sarah underscored the importance of intersectionality when it comes to justice issues such as disability justice, racial justice, economic justice, and LGBTQIA+ equity.

It was shared that VCDR and the work of Karen Lafayette as lobbyist can help keep us up to date moving forward, and Sarah mentioned that VCDR's Board of Governor's meeting will happen soon and encouraged people to participate.

Sherrie moved to approve the document and it was seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous to approve 9-0-0

Conclusions:

See above.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Send VCIL amounts spent on hearing aids to Kate, **Sarah Launderville**, 1/13/2022
- Include SRC VCDR representative report outs under state legislation on the next AOE agenda, **Kate Larose**, 2/15/2022
- Connect with Diane to determine the best way to engage legislative counsel, **Kate Larose**, 2/15/2022
- Make requested updates to legislative handouts and email to SRC members, **Kate Larose**, 1/15/2022

7) [Presentation: Working w/Disability](#) (Sarah Launderville)

Discussion:

Sarah presented [this presentation](#).

Cara added an acknowledgement that there is an intersectionality between disabilities, and that it often happens that the harder people try to get off of Social Security benefits, the harder it is and the more barriers that are in place.

Emily shared that VSAC offers a [Jim Jeffords scholarship](#) for students with disabilities.

Sherrie asked if Sarah shared this presentation with legislators. Sarah said the report was already presented to VBSR and Emerge Vermont, and that a marketing campaign is in the works. It will be released in the coming months with media spots that dovetail with the HireAbility Vermont launch.

Cari shared that Gov. Scott's State of the State yesterday focused on workforce and that will also be another opportunity perhaps for this message to be acknowledged by those who maybe have not previously acknowledged it.

Conclusions:

n/a

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

n/a

8) Upcoming Events (Group)

Discussion:

Due to lack of time, Asher requested that members email upcoming events to Kate if they have any they would like shared.

Conclusions:

See above.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

n/a

9) Other Business (Group)

A. Agenda Setting: March 3, 2022

Discussion: .

Sherrie shared that the issue of transportation again came up in today's P&P committee and that these issues often go beyond the policy and procedure manual. The P&P Committee would either like to have a joint meeting on the topic or create an adhoc workgroup on transportation. This seems like a workgroup that would also be of interest to the AOE committee and she wanted to let folks know. Sherrie will connect with the newly elected AOE chair in the coming weeks to move the workgroup forward.

Conclusions:

See above.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Connect with AOE Chair to determine creation of an adhoc committee on transportation or joint meeting, **Sherrie Brunelle**, 2/1/2022

10) Vote: AOE Chair (Asher Edelson)

Asher noted the email that Kate sent out about voting procedures when there is a contested election. Asher asked for nominations or self-nominations from the floor. Asher nominated Emily. Sarah nominated Cari. Asher twice more requested nominations. Hearing none, committee members were asked to cast their votes using the Zoom chat function and sending the name of the person they are voting for directly to Kate. Kate announced Cari as the winner. (Note: though it was stated at the time of the meeting that the vote totals were 5 votes Cari and 3 votes Emily, a follow-up count showed them to be 5 votes Cari, 4 votes Emily.) Cari was elected as Committee Chair.

Conclusions:

Cari Kelley was elected AOE Committee Chair.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Add Cari to Steering Committee listserve and update relevant documents, **Kate Larose**, 1/12/2022

11) Adjournment (Asher Edelson)**Discussion:**

Sherrie moved to adjourn and it was seconded. All approved. Vote unanimous 9-0-0

Conclusions:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Action Items, Person Responsible, Deadline:

- Draft minutes uploaded to SRC website, **Kate Larose**, 1/12/2022
- Draft minutes emailed to Committee members, **Kate Larose**, 1/12/2022
- Minutes approved, **Committee**, 3/3/2022
- Approved minutes uploaded to website, **Kate Larose**, 3/3/2022