



**Task Force on Equitable and Inclusive School Environments
Subcommittee #2-School staff, Professional Development, Training
October 28, 2021, 9-10:00 a.m.**

1 National Life Drive, Davis 5, Room 532
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
Call In: 1-802-828-7667
Conference ID: 647 375 217#

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Amy Wheeler-Sutton, Building Effective Strategies for Teaching Students Project at the University of Vermont; Chris Sheehan, teacher, appointed by the Vermont-National Education Association; Catherine Gallagher, Vermont Superintendents Association; Marianna Donnally, Department of Mental Health; Justin Picard, Vermont School Counselor Association.

Members of the public/others: Susan Aranoff

AOE: Maureen Gaidys

Call to Order/Roll Call/Amendments to Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

There were no members of the public to be heard.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2021, Meeting

Chris Sheehan moved to approve the minutes; Amy seconded. The minutes were approved with 2 votes to approve and 2 abstentions.

Working Session

- Review the scope of work for this subcommittee (Refer to the scope of work from the October 12, 2021, meeting minutes)
- What does restorative practices mean to be done with fidelity?
- What data is being collected and how?
- Department of Education put out a report on children's social and emotional mental health <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/students/supporting-child-student-social-emotional-behavioral-mental-health.pdf>

Challenges

1. Rising Mental Health Needs and Disparities Among Children and Student Groups
2. Perceived Stigma is a Barrier to Access
3. Ineffective Implementation of Practices

4. Fragmented Delivery Systems
5. Policy and Funding Gaps
6. Gaps in Professional Development and Support
7. Lack of Access to Usable Data to Guide Implementation Decisions

Recommendations

1. Prioritize Wellness for Each and Every Child, Student, Educator, and Provider
 2. Enhance Mental Health Literacy and Reduce Stigma and Other Barriers to Access
 3. Implement Continuum of Evidence-Based Prevention Practices
 4. Establish an Integrated Framework of Educational, Social, Emotional, and Behavioral-Health Support for All
 5. Leverage Policy and Funding
 6. Enhance Workforce Capacity
 7. Use Data for Decision Making to Promote Equitable Implementation and Outcomes
- Recommendation to think about including the Vermont Disabilities Council into this task force
 - Act 173 is pivoting to the Professional Development (PD) work common understanding of the terms and supports and this could be happening in tandem with this groups' recommendations
 - Recommend that task force provides feedback and recommendations based on the "layers" of VT Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS): Universal, targeted, intensive
 - Recommendation for an auditing of initiatives in each school and where they align
 - To what extent does the classroom teacher need to understand of all these initiatives? And what do they need to get there?
 - There needs to be meaning behind what we are doing
 - It is about the climate of the school
 - The leadership needs to extend the message
 - If there are only a few people who hold it all, then the work hinges on their employment status and dedication to continue the work
 - Marianna to draft language around Success Beyond Six
 - Justin will send Amy the Restorative work language
 - Maureen will send out a Doodle poll for next meeting in 2 weeks

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Marianna Donnally