



**Task Force on Equitable and Inclusive School  
Environments  
Subcommittee #1: Best Practices, Defining Behaviors,  
other states**

October 13, 2021, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting  
Call In: 1-802-828-7667  
Conference ID: 881 683 157#  
1 National Life Drive, Room #532  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Amy Wheeler-Sutton; Sandra Cameron; Lindsey Halman; Justin Pinard; Steven Perrin; Kheya Ganguly; Marianna Donnally

**Members of the public/others:** Susan Aranoff (VT Developmental Disabilities Council)

**AOE:** Maureen Gaidys

**Call to Order/Introductions/Amendments to Agenda**

Meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Amy Wheeler-Sutton.  
There were no amendments to the agenda.

**Approve Minutes from October 6, 2021, Meeting**

**Opportunity for Public to be Heard**

There were no members of the public to be heard. (Susan Aranoff offered comments toward the end of the meeting.)

**Working Session**

Goal of work session: **Identify best practice procedures** for students facing in-school or exclusionary discipline that minimize law enforcement contacts; are trauma-responsive; and maximize relational and restorative actions that support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of these students

**Resources:**

[National Conference of State Legislatures - School Discipline](#)

[Institute on Community Integration-Ten Alternatives to Suspension](#)

**Best Practice Brainstorm – the sub-committee created a table to further their research into best practices and the charge of this group**

Best Practice	Is it minimizing law enforcement contact?	Trauma-Responsive?	Maximize relational and restorative actions that support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students?
U32: Community (alternative to detention)	•	•	•
Partnership with Community Justice Centers (CJCs)	•	•	•
Diversion programs	•	•	•
Peer led mediation panels	•	•	•
Adult facilitated restorative practices	•	•	•
Youth facilitated restorative conferences/circles - <a href="#">Pa'lante</a> RJ	•	•	•
Partnerships with local law enforcement in non-punitive forum	•	•	•
Resources and supports for families	•	•	•
Mentorship programs	•	•	•
Partnership with community mental health	•	•	•
Counseling	•	•	•
Statewide “policy/endorsement” for mandated training for all educators (ex. Blood borne pathogens, NY - bullying/harassment, etc.)	•	•	•

Handbook language that reflects best practices for discipline procedures			
Consistency, fidelity with training and systems			

**Systems - Data - Outcomes with Equity at the center of each of these**

**Questions from Sub-Committee:**

**U32:** materials that share information for families re: Community

**DATA QUESTIONS for AOE:** What are the behaviors that are receiving suspensions or expulsions? - is there a way to find this in the database? - Is the data accessible? What else do we need to know in regards to data?

**Other:** Can the legislature create policy that charges an existing group (i.e., ESSR) to come and look at local policy?

Social equity caucus - could a group share questions with the caucus?

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Lindsey Halman