



Task Force for Universal Afterschool Access

January 5, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Draft Meeting Minutes

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Call In: 1-802-552-8456

Conference ID: 163 566 095#

Per H.969 of 2020, Sec. B.1120.1, a [Task Force for Universal Afterschool Access](#) was created to consider and make recommendations on the framework for, the costs of, and related long-term funding sources for access to universal afterschool programs.

Members: Representative Kelly Pajala; Senator Perchlik; Jess DeCarolis, Director, Agency of Education; Geoffrey T. Pippenger, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, Department for Children and Families (DCF); Chelsea Myers, Associate Executive Director, Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA); Sandra Cameron, Director of Public Policy, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA); Erin Maguire (Essex-Westford School District), Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators (VCSEA); Matthew DeBlois, (Vergennes Union Elementary School), Vermont Principals' Association (VPA); Mark Tashjian, Chair, Council of Independent Schools; Retta Dunlap, President, VT Home Education Network; David Woolpy, Executive Director, Vermont Boys and Girls Clubs of Rutland County; Heather Moore (Franklin County), Afterschool Program Representative; Carrie McDonnell (Windsor/Orange County), Afterschool Program Representative; Christy Gallese (Chittenden County), Afterschool Program Representative; and Holly Morehouse, Executive Director, Executive Director, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.

Call to Order, Roll Call/Introductions/Amendments to Agenda

Co-Chair Pajala called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. She asked for introductions: Erin Maguire, EWSD/VCSEA; Carrie McDonnell, One Planet Program Director White River Valley Supervisory Union (WRVSU); Chelsea Myers, Associate Executive Director, VSA; David Woolpy, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County; Jess DeCarolis, Student Pathways Division Director, AOE; Heather Moore, LEAPS Afterschool Director for Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union (FNESU)/ Richford-Enosburg VT Youth Project Community Lead; Maureen Gaidys, Administrative Services Coordinator, AOE; Holly Moorehouse, Executive Director, VT Afterschool Inc.; Meg Fuerst, (couldn't hear her affiliation); Heather Moore, Afterschool Program Representative; Geoffrey Pippenger, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, DCF; Senator Andrew Perchlik, Washington County; Sandra Cameron, Director of Public Policy, VSBA; Matthew DeBlois, Vergennes Union Elementary School, VPA; Retta Dunlap, President, VT Home Education Network; Christy Gallese, Afterschool Program Representative.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Approve Minutes from December 14, 2020 Meeting

Dunlap moved to approve the minutes with the correction of her affiliation being edited to President, VT Home Education Network; Moorehouse seconded with this correction. There was no discussion. The

motion passed. Dublois made a motion to approve the minutes as amended by Dunlap; Pippenger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

There were no members of the public to be heard.

Short Overview of Materials Shared Prior to Meeting

Moorehouse gave an overview of what we know about afterschool programming in Vermont. She added that the Task Force (TF) has a big task ahead of them and the overview should help them focus on what was most critical. She shared a presentation that addressed the current landscape and existing resources, key funding sources, recent initiatives in Vermont and next steps.

She identified the key takeaway points as being multi-agency work/multi-sector issue; diverse network of providers and a wide variety of funding models; established statewide supports for quality programs that were built up with years of investment; recognized unmet demand and barriers to participation; and plenty of groundwork and initiatives to build upon.

Highlights:

- ~19,092 children/youth in afterschool programs
- ~26,148 children/youth who would be in afterschool programs if available, accessible and affordable
- 450+ comprehensive providers of afterschool and summer programming
- VT was top 10 in the U.S. for program quality in 2014 and 2020
- Access issues and barriers: availability, cost, and transportation
- VT statewide network – public/private partnership
- Major Federal Programs – CCDF (Child Care Development Fund), 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21C), other funding options (Title funds, Private foundations, federal food programs, local town or school funding, parent/participant fees, etc.)
- VT Initiatives: Legislation and State Reports (H.391, H.270, Opioid Coordination Council, Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) Working Group, etc.); Afterschool for All Grant Program; and School-age (kindergarten through grade 6) Childcare Hubs
- Where we are now, what we have and what we need to do

Q&A about Materials/Data

There was discussion on the importance of partnerships and collaborations, how the estimate of 26,148 children/youth who would be in programs if available, accessible and affordable was determined, the federal statute [Title IV Part B—21st Century Community Learning Centers, Section 4201](#), requests for 21C funding exceeding available dollars, how to improve outcomes for school districts, leveraging relationships and interagency connections, [21CCLC summary/report from February 2020](#), [21CCLC site map from February 2020](#), local involvement, disaggregated data on enrollment, marginalized groups, supporting existing structures via the childcare hubs, under-recognized field of experts who know how to provide afterschool services, continued need to build upon and support this field, childcare hubs as a framework, value of afterschool programs to employers, variety of commitment levels for afterschool staff, supporting and developing afterschool staff, underserved/rural areas connected with transportation needs, regional collaboration with childcare, breakdown of funding sources and oversight, parental involvement, getting

kids out of the school building and into life, disparity in serving children with disabilities, importance of providing supports that ensure equity to access, and appropriately funded programs/restrictions with 21C funds.

Discussion focused on what the priorities should be for Afterschool for All funding (e.g., access for low-income youth, quality standards, etc.)

Co-chair Pajala reviewed issues that had already come up: accessibility, underserved regions of the state, funding quality programs, ongoing sustainability of programs being a critical component, underserved populations of the state, opportunity for empowerment and engagement, need for flexibility, importance of youth voice, administrative collaborative opportunity, resiliency development, prioritizing funding to low-income communities, being clear about equity when creating priorities, making afterschool programs more affordable for all, balancing flexibility with quality, definitions might be helpful in identifying priorities, what exists that can be built off from, sustainability and staff retention and upcoming workshops that address the Icelandic models.

Co-Chair Pajala summarized priorities: accessibility, quality and quality indicators used, underserved regions and populations, that new programs have a plan for sustainability and indicators of community collaboration, need for flexibility, looking at prevention model and youth voice in program development, resiliency development, lower program costs and serving low-income populations. Maguire added that there was a funding requirement tied to serving students with disabilities and there was a cost associated that was not funded or underfunded and needs to be addressed. Transportation was added as a big issue for programs outside of school buildings.

Next Steps, Preview of Next Two Meeting Topics

Chair Pajala offered: information on different funding sources (administrative costs and eligibility guidelines), additional information on the Icelandic model, and afterschool grant program and metrics used. She asked for other topics. Other topics suggested were: feedback from key stakeholder groups (AOE, Child Development Division (CDD), community partners, school districts, etc.), definition of equity, mapping gaps in service and information, lack of funding, accessibility, funding sources, administrative costs, afterschool grant application and information gleaned, upcoming workshops (VT Afterschool) on the Icelandic model in January and February that translate the Icelandic model into the Vermont landscape and bringing Shayla Livingston, Vermont Department of Health, into this conversation.

Other

There was discussion on this culminating in a grant process, cannabis funds, targeting areas of need while also waiting on grant applications, relying on people to apply for grants to reconcile the problem, readiness factor of afterschool programs was strong, ensuring sustainability, flexibility of grants to accommodate many different models, asking for and needing funding and meeting the needs of historically-marginalized populations are not always aligned, accountability systems to ensure service provision, importance of having funding for multi-years, looking at 21C grant process, and capacity (for grant writing) and disadvantaged systems.

Adjourn

Co-Chair Pajala thanked the group for their work and adjourned at 5:00 p.m.