



# Task Force for Universal Afterschool Access

January 25, 2021, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## Draft Meeting Minutes

### **Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**Call In: 1-802-552-8456**

**Conference ID: 508 807 030# #**

*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.*

Task Force (TF) Members Present: Representative Kelly Pajala; Senator Perchlik; Jess DeCarolis, Director, Agency of Education (AOE); 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); 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.

Others: Lynne Robbins, Child Development Division (CDD); Melissa Riegel-Garrett, CDD; Kendal Smith, Governor's Office; Maureen Gaidys, AOE.

### **Call to Order, Roll Call/Introductions/Amendments to Agenda/Review of the TF's Legislative Tasks**

Co-Chair Perchlik called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. There were no amendments to the agenda. He reviewed the TF's legislative tasks: recommending strategies to maximize health and substance abuse prevention in consult with the Substance Misuse Prevention and Advisory Council, mapping Afterschool (AS) programs and highlighting gaps, and reviewing the status results of the Afterschool for All program. Co-Chair also reviewed the meeting agenda. Morehouse suggested an upcoming grant opportunity from the National Conference of State Legislatures and explained that it was a grant received six years ago to do the original data project for Afterschool. She suggested that if the TF maps out some additional areas where data was needed, it might be good to pursue this grant opportunity for some of the work. The timing would be outside the scope of the TF but still could be useful going forward.

### **Approve Minutes from January 5, 2021 Meeting**

Co-Chair Pajala moved to approve the minutes; Myers seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved.

## **Opportunity for Public to be Heard**

There were no members of the public to be heard.

## **Presentation by Agency of Education, Jess DeCarolis - 21 Century Program & Proposal for New Program**

Jess DeCarolis, Student Pathways, Division Director introduced herself and shared a presentation titled, [21CCLC –Community-based Afterschool](#). She spoke about the creation and deliverables of the TF, 21 Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC), building full comprehensive centers as opposed to programs, pre-COVID-19 outcomes, lessons learned from building full comprehensive centers, integration with the local school, supporting partnerships, statewide supports, new COVID-19 context and AS, definition of “Afterschool,” focus on equity and access, “universal” meaning access, recommendations, and responsible expansion and flexible pathways to developing centers.

There was discussion on schools being the applicant lead and fiscal agent, need for partnerships with schools, lessons learned from unsuccessful programs, centers with a full array of programming, Boys and Girls clubs can be the perfect setting as they are a complement to the school day with a different setting and multiple programs and facilities with great capacity, concern with needing school to be fiscal agent, duplication of a 21C grant, concern over grant funding decreasing over years, transportation as a challenge/barrier, matching and community investment, funding transportation, programs that have become sustainable, capacity building funds, including summer programming, flexible pathways for program structure and needs, combining afterschool with extended school year (ESY), Out of School Time (OST), licensing interplay with state grant, alignment with existing administrative processes, recommending a quality set-aside for professional development, equity tools such as the Equity Impact Assessment (EIA), how to address equity gaps, needing conversation about students who need additional supports, “historically underserved” as suggested language, “historically marginalized” as a counter suggestion, centering the system vs. centering the people, the cross-agency piece, and expanding AS beyond and addition to school districts.

## **Review the status and results of the Afterschool for All Grant Program administered by the Department for Children and Families (DCF). Presentation by DCF.**

Pippenger introduced Melissa Riegel-Garrett, Policy Director at CDD and shared a presentation titled, [Vermont Afterschool for All Program](#). She spoke about legislative purpose and funding from the tobacco settlement, funding priorities, implementation, grant competition, grant oversight committee, programs funded, program supports and tracking, expanding access and lessons learned.

There was discussion on having an inclusive and transparent process, reporting requirements for 21C, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), network of quality coaches, challenges of rural communities, and successful programs needing targeted coaching and support.

Riegel-Garrett spoke about the bigger picture – systemic approach, multi-faceted, trauma-informed, supporting SEL, youth engagement, accessibility, and focused on building resiliency factors and thriving communities. There was a comment on using SBAC as a necessary metric.

## **Discussion on Afterschool Priorities (continuation from last meeting)**

Co-Chair Perchlik referenced a document prepared by Morehouse, a [draft section on priorities for the TF's report](#) and spoke about the bullet points. He suggested adding a reference to equity and substance abuse prevention. There was discussion on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) as a priority, the parenthetical lists in the draft, social emotional learning (SEL), incorporation into transferable skills, adding the concept of inclusion and universal design, middle income group that falls through the cracks, intentionality of activities/learning, meeting range of diversity, complementing a range of settings and activities (homeless shelters, restorative justice networks), and offering a place to demonstrate some of these broader spectrum priorities. Morehouse asked TF members to send her any edits to the rough draft that she created. There was further discussion on oversight of funding, equity priorities and using data for access information.

Co-Chair Perchlik reviewed the priorities: flexibilities and use of funds, mixed delivery system with wide range of providers, fostering multi-agency collaboration, addressing needs of childcare and learning, incorporates youth voice, increases protective factors, encourages partnerships, ensures sustainability, provides multi-year funding, lower costs of programs for everyone, and supporting staff.

There was discussion on offering a broad range of priority areas, partnerships to build in quality programming components, combining bullets, what "agency" references, having an ongoing group to adjust and adapt, collaboration of grantors, collecting data and monitoring outcomes and program evaluations.

## **Next Steps, Preview of Next Meeting**

There was discussion on the next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Co-Chair said that meeting would have discussions on equity and mapping. Representatives from the Substance Misuse Prevention and Advisory Council will speak to their work at the next meeting. There was conversation on mapping and the need to incorporate data and assess data needs. Morehouse offered to revise the priority section and circulate a draft to TF members for the eventual report, to be reviewed at the February 10, 2021 meeting. Co-chair Pajala asked for discussion on who would be reviewing/managing applications. A discussion on funding needs and a timeline and proposed sources was suggested. There was discussion on who would run a proposed program at the state (AOE/DCF) and local level, schools as the center of humanity, importance of running the grant through the AOE, avoiding either/or dynamic, potential barriers to application, desire to have this designed so that it is different from 21C money, TF is heavy with education representatives with not so much representation from DCF and/or other community programs, difference between goals for the program and misrepresentation of 21C, federal funds should supplement, opportunity to establish programs and expand upon them, this is not in conflict with 21C, 21C has a high threshold, examining fears and ensuring balanced discussions.

## **Adjourn**

Co-Chair Perchlik adjourned the meeting at 1:49 p.m.