

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting  
Call In: 1-802-828-7667  
Conference ID: 781 250 876#

Advisory Committee (AC) Members: **Monica Hutt**, State Chief Prevention Officer; **Janet McLaughlin**, Commissioner for Children and Families designee; **Ilisa Stahlberg**, Commissioner of Health designee; **Laurel Omland**, Commissioner of Mental Health designee; **Alison Thomas**; Secretary of Natural Resources designee; **Nate Formalarie**, Secretary of Commerce and Community Development designee; **Nicole Miller**, Vermont Afterschool Executive Director; and **Kendal Smith**, Governor's Office.

### DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**AC Members Present:** Janet McLaughlin, Deputy Commissioner, Child Development Division; Ilisa Stahlberg, Director of Family and Child Health; Laurel Omland, Director of Child, Adolescent and Family Unit; Alison Thomas; Director of Outreach Division; Nate Formalarie, Secretary of Agency of Commerce and Community Deputy Commissioner of Housing and Community Development; Nicole Miller, Vermont Afterschool (VAS) Executive Director; Kendal Smith, Governor's Office.

**Agency of Education (AOE):** Zoie Saunders, Interim Secretary of Education; Heather Bouchey, Deputy Secretary of Education; Johannes Haensch, Program Manager; Maureen Gaidys, Administrative Services Coordinator.

**Members of the public/others:** Jamie;

### **Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call, Amendments to Agenda**

Smith called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and took roll call. Present: Stahlberg, Haensch, Thomas, Miller, McLaughlin, Saunders, Formalarie, Omland.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

### **Approve [June 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)**

Miller moved to approve the [June 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes](#); Formalarie seconded. Smith call the vote; the minutes were approved.

### **Public to be Heard**

Jamie, Director for Afterschool and Summer Programs in the West River Education District, Townsend, VT – thanked the AC for their work managing money for so many programs. He said it is important to keep in mind not just those programs that need funds but those that

lack infrastructure to support programs and these don't usually receive grants. Smith encouraged Jamie to offer comments if appropriate during the meeting and appreciated his participation and feedback.

### **AOE to share work update on afterschool funds planning and receive Committee feedback**

Saunders previewed that AOE would walk through an overview of the research specific to center development (capacity building and sustainability), offer several recommendations, will share intent to address highest-needs communities and orient to a broader budget picture and a multi-year plan. Lastly would like to open it up a larger discussion around capacity building.

Haensch shared a presentation, "[Proposal for Funding FY25](#)" that included an overview and four recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Application Design Features: Breakout program and center application timelines rolling in concert with 21C across the year. Keep existing priorities and tracking as absolute priorities in year one. Apply additional competitive priority structure and associated application enhancements focused on highest need and highest quality programming.

There was discussion and questions on communities limited by who they can hire, is there concern for excluding smaller programs/regions, this is a framework for a future draft, how this compares to what was received last application round, considering how to consistently measure impact, and communication on grant interpretation.

Recommendation 2: Weight investments to center investments. Current proposal weights centers vs. programs at 2:1 to support research and sustainability.

There was discussion on this disenfranchising rural Vermont and weight the majority of funds to urban hubs, difference between a center and a program, barriers to entry to forming a center, flexibility in this model for small rural schools, needing more clarification on centers and programs, goal is to enable the development and expansion of centers, and this should be explicit, and centers are self-sustaining.

Recommendation 3: Include annual option to use some Act 789 funds in the 21C competitions if federal funds cannot fund all successful proposals

There were questions/discussion on Act 78 having a different mission than 21C, mindful of how we balance implementation, how 21C funding works, concern that we don't just support long-running programs in the places where capacity has been built, and the importance of building new programs, especially in our most rural and often small communities.

Recommendation 4: Enhance and incentivize a stronger partnership model; more points for school/community partnership and other methods.

There was discussion on flexibility in defining partnerships, concern with self-selecting out, preference for school-community partners or flexibility for several community partners to come together, and importance of clarity on "partnerships."

Haensch shared the proposed channels for amounts and impacts and the proposed timeline for how the competitions will run. He said the broad thought is to align the 21C and 78 centers track so that so can some co-training to the field can be leveraged. He stressed again that this is a proposal. Interim Secretary Saunders acknowledged the complexity of this work and the attempt to create coherence through braided funding. She said there is also a communications plan under development to simplify and clarify information and this will include guidance, webinars, etc.

Smith said that [this presentation](#) would be posted on the [Afterschool and Summer Learning Advisory Committee webpage](#).

Interim Secretary Saunders spoke about approaches to building capacity: 1) providing more training/support as we think about the grant development process and 2) would be designed similar to a mini grant. AOE is open to feedback on both. There is more detail to be fleshed out, but AOE believe that these pathways could be promising on meeting capacity building goals. Capacity building will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

There was comment on co-developing communication plans so that there was cohesiveness across fields/divisions.

Smith said she might invite researchers from the Wallace Foundation to share data with the AC at the next meeting. This might pair well with the capacity building discussion.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Maureen Gaidys