

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
Draft Quarterly Meeting Minutes ~ December 1, 2016
VT Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, South Burlington

Approved March 23, 2017

Present:	Fred Breunig, Carol Hassler MD, Terry Holden, Catherine Hybels, Dion LaShay, Clare McFadden, Ed Paquin, Lisa Rudiakov, Susan Ryan, Cinn Smith, John Spinney, Kay Stambler, Miriam Stoll, Adrian Vaut
Absent:	Stacey Emerson, Marcy Ryan, Jennifer Stratton,
Support Staff:	None
Guests:	Dawn O’Toole, Sarah Launderville, Susan Yuan, Representative Helen Head
VTDDC Staff:	Kirsten Murphy, Chelsea Hayward, Susan Aranoff

1. Welcome and Minutes

Fred began the meeting and roles were assigned. There was a quorum. Lisa read “What helps at meetings”. Members discussed the September 29, 2016 Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Ed made the motion to accept the meeting minutes with typo correction “treasurer.” Motion Approved 11-0-0.

2. Executive Director Report

Five-Year State Plan – VTDDC received feedback from its Federal funders on the Five-Year State Plan and praise from GMSA for user-friendly Goals and Objectives. VTDDC’s yearly report is due at the end of the month.

ABLE – The Treasurer’s Office, with support from VTDDC, announced VermontABLE will be structured by Ohio’s STABLE program. It will be rolled out in three-phases and there may also be incentivizes to open accounts.

Supported Employment – Supported employment is not an option under Vermont’s Choices for Care program. VTDDC has hired the Disability Law Project to research this issue, which ties to Objective 3.4 in the State Plan.

eLearning – The Vermont Healthcare Innovation project grant concluded. It trained disability etiquette to 240 healthcare professionals and had over 20 hours of curriculum. A portion of that curriculum will be made available as an online training.

3. Financial Report:

Members reviewed the Executive Committee’s recommended budget changes. Kirsten reminded members to be conservative because we do not know what the President Elect and new Administration will plan. Congress has not adopted a budget beyond April 28, 2017. Recommended changes:

- \$ 5,000 to be added to the Leadership Series.
- \$ 30,000 to be added to the SEEDS grants.
- \$ 17,000 to a new category called “Programs” for conference support.

The Council requested that Kirsten include the cash balance in the financial report at future meetings. A revised budget is attached.

Motion: Stacey made the motion to accept the proposed budget. Terry seconded.
Motion passed: 15-0-0.

4. Council President Report

Election – Fred proposed that Cinn Smith serve as the Council Vice-President until her term ends in March 2017.

Motion: Kay made the motion to accept Cinn as Council Vice-President. Lisa seconded. **Motion passed: 15-0-0.**

By-Law changes – Fred revised the By-Laws for Council Members to vote on. Those changes were:

- Add missing content (for example, references to Executive Orders).
- Add three sub-committees:
 - Program Committee
 - Planning Committee
 - Membership Committee
- Require a Memorandum-of-Agreement between VTDDC and AHS.
- Remove Proxy Voting so VTDDC’s bylaws are consistent with Vermont law.
- Correct spelling and grammar.

Motion: Ed made the motion to accept the proposed By-Law changes. Susan seconded. **Motion passed: 15-0-0.**

Fred asked how Council members felt about phone or computer meeting attendance and the group briefly discussed these options.

5. Program Committee Report:

The Program Committee sent out two Requests for Proposals: The Vermont Self-Advocacy Project and Round 1 for SEEDS grants. This committee will regularly monitor projects that are approved.

Vermont Self-Advocacy Project – There was one application. The Program Committee recommends awarding \$45,000 to Green Mountain Self-Advocates for 9 months. This grant is renewable for an additional two years at \$60,000 per year.

Cathy summarized the project proposal which supports **Goal 2 of VTDDC’s Five Year State Plan.**

Motion: Ed made the motion to accept the recommendation. Lisa seconded. **Motion passed: 14-0-1.**

SEEDS Grants – There were 4 applications. The Program Committee recommends approving the Green Mountain Self-Advocates/Northeast Kingdom Human Services application and the Vermont Legal Aid application, with the condition that these groups collaborate

- **Green Mountain Self-Advocates (GMSA)** asked for \$15,000 for *Nurturing Alternatives*, a project to educate transition-age youth and families about alternatives to full guardianship. This is a companion project to a request by the **Disability Law Project (DLP)** for \$15,000 to support diverting cases from probate court. Both projects target the three counties in the Northeast Kingdom. GMSA and DLP are working in collaboration with Director of Developmental Services Roy Gerstenberger as part of a statewide effort to promote supported decision-making.
- **Vermont Family Network** asked for \$15,000. They proposed placing a representative in Brattleboro once a week to identify needs. The Program Committee has asked VFN to revise and re-submit.
- The **Counseling Service of Addison County** asked for \$10,710 for training direct service providers. The Program Committee felt the proposed activities were a State responsibility.

Motion: Kay made the motion to accept the Program Committee’s recommendation to fund the Guardianship Project with Northeast Kingdom Counseling Services, Green Mountain Self-Advocates, and Vermont Legal Aid. Lisa seconded. **Motion passed: 13-0-2.**

6. Membership Committee Report:

The Membership Committee recommends seeking a Governor’s appointment to VTDDC for Michael Gruteke. Mike lives in the Northeast Kingdom and experiences a developmental disability. He is representative of someone served through Choices for Care. He is passionate about increasing accessible transportation in rural communities.

Motion: Cinn made the motion to accept the recommendation and to invite the other applicant to the next Quarterly Meeting and give an in-person interview. Kay seconded. **Motion passed: 15-0-0.**

There will be additional vacancies after March 31, 2017!

7. Public Comment

Guest Sarah Launderville, gave a brief description about the work of the Vermont Center for Independent Living. They are a member of the Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights. She thanked the Council for their past financial support.

Guest Susan Yuan serves on the State Program Standing Committee and twice served on VTDDC. She talked about a successful legislative initiative to secure majority representation by self-advocates and family members on agency boards. The very valuable bill wouldn’t have been possible without the Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights, said Susan.

8. Updates from Representatives and of State Government

- Clare talked about how the Developmental Disability Service Division is in the process of developing additional administrative rules. People can comment at public forums about the proposed changes; check the DAIL website for dates, locations, and times. They may also submit written comment.
- Because time was limited, Carol and John were not able to report.

9. Council Leadership Development

Green Mountain Self-Advocates staff Max Barrows and Karen Topper provided a training about inclusive meetings.

“The fact of the matter is the material they hand out is not good enough for me to follow,” said Max. “When there’s too many things and too many words being said – I have this shield that develops and stops information from coming in.”

It’s important to give information ahead of time and share the most important information first.

With GMSA support, Council members brainstormed ideas for making meeting more inclusive:

- Take 5 minutes before a vote to allow everyone to digest and ask questions.
- The person who calls on people to speak should call on those who haven't spoken.
- Include a flow-chart of VTDDC's external groups in the handbook.
- Have non-spoken symbols to "check in" and make sure everyone is comfortable. (traffic light: red, yellow, green).

GMSA will provide follow-up, including checklists for inclusive practices, and an observation of VTDDC's meeting in March with feedback.

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm