

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
Draft Executive Committee Meeting Minutes ~ January 6, 2025
On-line meeting

Present:	Kele Bourdeau, Anastasia Douglas, Michelle John, Randy Lizotte,
Absent:	Justin Thunderbear Deth, Lindsey Owen
VTDDC Staff:	Kirsten Murphy, Chelsea Hayward

1. Welcome and Adopt Minutes:

Anastasia called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Executive Committee members discussed the minutes from November 4, 2024. The date at the top of the page should be changed.

Motion: Kele made the motion to adopt the meeting minutes from November 4, 2024 with a correction to the date. Motion seconded by Michelle. There was no additional discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Chair’s Update:

- **March Meeting Location –**
The next Quarterly Meeting will take place in Montpelier at the National Life Building.
- **Recruitment of new members –**
Anastasia asked if anyone was interested in serving on the Membership Committee. This committee meets online.
- **Reaching out to members interested in Chair/Vice Chair –**
Elections for VTDDC Chair and Vice-Chair will be held at the next quarterly meeting. Committee members talked about responsibilities, such as leading meetings, organizing Council members, attending events, etc.

3. Executive Directors Update:

- **Continuing Resolution until March 14, 2025 -**
Congress had not yet passed a budget for FFY'25. Kirsten said that cuts were unlikely for FFY'25, but not out of the question. Federal agency are more likely to see cuts in FFY'26.
- **Film by DRVT, “Forgotten Promises,” showing January 7, 2025 –**
Disability Rights Vermont made a documentary. “Forgotten Promises” highlights the urgent need for home and community-based services, and the challenges that arise when the State relies too heavily on institutions. There will be a panel discussion at the end of the film. Kirsten is on the panel.
- **Statehouse Events this session –**
 - **Ice Cream Social on February 13, 2025.** Co-sponsored with the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative. The Social is a wonderful opportunity to connect with legislators and educate them about housing.
 - **Opening Art Show on May 6, 2025.** VTDDC staff have reserved time and space to share “Hello, Neighbor” story portraits with legislators and guests. The statehouse curator will work with VTDDC staff to hang the portraits on the cafeteria walls.
 - **Steady stream of Make a Date with Sue.** “In my house, everyday is disability awareness day.” Susan was excited to report that her schedule is quickly filling. She encouraged committee members to contact her and “make a date!”
- **IHPP Booklets –**
Kirsten asked the Executive Committee if they would be willing to authorize paying for some of the cost of printing the plain language health information created by the Inclusive Healthcare Partnership Project booklets through the Council’s annual program budget. The grant funds that support the IHPP area almost all spent.
The committee talked about raising awareness about the IHPP through word of mouth and widespread distribution of the booklets at agencies and healthcare clinics. Members said how valuable it is to have the booklets available in many formats and locations.

The Executive Committee said they are supportive of using some Council funds for the printing but only if necessary. Kirsten will speak with the Vermont Department of Health to see if they have any additional funds they could put toward finishing the IHPP.

4. Planning for Annual Review of Executive Director:

This agenda item was not taken up by the Committee. Kirsten has shared a draft schedule for the evaluation process with Anastasia.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Hayward
Coordinator of Communication and Administration