

**Land Access and Opportunity Board Meeting
Mar. 6, 2023, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting Facilitator: Kirsten Murphy

Meeting Notes – Approved at the 3/20/2023 meeting

Kirsten Murphy convened the March 6, 2023 meeting of the LAOB at 5:30 pm: brief introductions and identify/acknowledge who the active representative is from each appointing authority. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Kirsten Murphy, Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council ; Samantha Langevin, Vermont RELEAF Collective; Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity; Jess Laporte, Vermont Every Town Project; Brian Cina, NASW; Pastor Arnold Thomas, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance; Pasifique Nsengiyumva, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants; Raheemah Madany, Pride Center of Vermont; Rev. Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance (*Alternate*); Ashley Devereaux NASW (*Alternate*)

Board Members Not Present:

Rich Holschuh, Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs; Naomi Moody, NAACP; Karim Chapman, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors

VHCB Staff/ LAOB consultants present:

Trey Martin, Bonnie Woodford; Robert Appel, attorney to the Board

Members of the Public present

Malcolm Greene, Nathan Suter, Shane Rogers, Mindy Blank, Lucinda N

1. The Board reviewed the meeting notes from the Feb. 27, 2023 meeting, no comments or corrections were made by the board and were accepted. Members of the Board are welcome to send Bonnie or Trey comments.
2. Facilitator Hiring Update
 - Trey Martin gave the Board an update noting that seven applications have been received so far. The Board will form a working group to review applications which will include Xusana Davis, Samantha Langevin, Ashley Devereaux, and Shalini Suryanarayana.

- The process for the workgroup will be to review applicants, create a selection criteria, and report back to the full Board with a short list of 3 candidates and the full Board will make a final decision in an executive session.

3. Public Comment

- Two applicants for the Facilitator position introduced themselves to the Board: Nathan Suter and Lucinda N.
- Malcolm Greene provided a comment reminding the Board how important it is to continue to push for robust funding. The original ask in H.273 was for \$10m; the ask now is less than half that, over four years.
- Mindy Blank and Shane Rogers provided an overview of Seeding Power and Action Circles work in the General Assembly to support the Board's budget request. They requested appointing authorities to sign a letter of support. They offered an advocacy training from Action Circles for members of the Board if interested.

4. Kirsten invited members to share questions, comments, requests regarding Board Communications, Scheduling, Information Management and Sharing, and Decision Making

Xusana shared that it might be good to hold an open session to do an overview of the Sunrise Report for members of the public.

Jess asked whether a future Board meeting could include space for a review of the Board's recommendations, and priorities. And asked how the Board can be more engaged with the organizations that the Board members work within.

Samantha noted that one important function is data storage / access – and asked if the Board Facilitator can take that on as an initial role. Bonnie Woodford from VHCB noted that we can do more to use the webpage for public records or resources, as well as using Google Drive for working documents and shared/collaborative work.

Pastor Thomas raised a question about how widespread dissemination of the Board's work should be – is there a risk of pushback and drawing negative public attention.

Robert Appel suggested that the Board should be ready for pushback, but noted that reception so far has been very strong and supportive.

Jess shared thinking about having working space (like Google Drive or others) that could invite comment not just from the Board but from the public as well in some cases.

Brian Cina acknowledged Malcolm Greene's frustration in the amount of time that has passed without feeling like there has been progress. Brian encouraged the Board to consider how we can communicate and leverage the power of this group around budget priorities especially related to housing.

5. Legislative Updates and Opportunities

a. Senate Economic Development testimony – week of March 20th

- Trey Updated the Board on scheduling Tuesday (3/21), Wednesday (3/22), or Thursday (3/23) to testify; the Board may also be invited to House Appropriations.
- VHCB to set up times for the Legal Action Working Group (a sub-committee of the Board) to meet the week of March 13th.

Jess asked Board members what would be helpful for them to testify, and asked if folks are willing or able to testify.

Pastor Thomas expressed it would be great to have folks that we are hoping to serve with the work of the Board testify.

Raheemah asked if the Board's presentation could be made into a plain language version, Kirsten offered to work on that and Xusana offered to provide an audio narration of the plain language slides.

A plain language summary, Samantha noted, would also help affected members of the public to tell their stories. Many Board members agreed that they know community members who have important stories to tell.

Exploring ways for members of the public to testify or share their support in a more accessible way could be helpful, potentially using voice memos or videos that can be transcribed.

Raheemah stressed the emotional weight of having to tell and retell stories about past and present traumas.

Pastor Thomas agreed and also stated that we need to remind folks of the past and present especially as there are new legislators that were not present for the creation of the Board.

Jess reminded everyone that sharing stories and testifying is opt in and not required.

Rev Mark Hughes noted the incredible power of the meeting tonight, and the really strong work and collaborative discussion. He also noted some successes from the LAOB's presentation to House General, based on stories, data, preparation and understanding the room, and building on past successes.

6. Kirsten reviewed action items-

- Consider hosting an education session for members of the community on the Sunrise Report
- Creating a plain language version of the Report and an audio narration of the plain language report.
- Create a letter of support template for organizations and/or the public

- Week of March 20th need to testify, would be good to have some alternates. Testimony is eligible for per diem and travel/cost reimbursement.
- Need a facilitator for the March 20th Board meeting.
- Doodle polls coming:
 - Action Circles Training
 - Testimony
 - Legal Action Working Group

7. Public Comment II

- Malcolm Greene stated that it seems like the Board was formed by telling stories and that there is also good data that can be shared. He also expressed that we are going in the same cycle and when are we going to be able to get funding out to folks in need.
- Shane Rogers shared that Amy from Action Circles is available to provide a training for Board members at the March 20th meeting. VHCB staff to follow up with a poll on timing.

8. Meeting Adjourned by Kirsten Murphy at 7:00 PM