

Land Access and Opportunity Board Meeting

Jan 8, 2024, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Facilitator: Natanya Vanderlaan WholeHeart Inc., Jessica Laporte CROs

Attendee	Present	Not Present
Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Susan Aranoff, Vermont DDC ● Samantha Langevin, VT RELEAF Collective ● Ana Mejia, Vermont Every Town Project ● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs ● Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity ● Britaney Watson, NAACP ● Pacifique Nsengiyumva, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arnold Thomas, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance ● Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers ● Raheemah Madany, Pride Center of Vermont ● <i>Vermont Psychiatric Survivors (no active board member)</i>
Board Alternates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jennifer Morton-Dow, VT Releaf Collective ● Mark Hughes, VRJA *voting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kirsten Murphy, Vermont DDC ● Shingai Kagunda, Vermont Every Town Project* ● Rich Holschuh, VCNAA ● Ashley Devereaux, NASW
Guests & Public	<p><u>Public:</u> Wynston Longmore <u>Guests:</u> Robert Appel, Legal Counsel; Ornella Matta-Figueroa & Jean Hamilton, New LAOB Staff; Trey Martin & Gus Seelig, VHCB</p>	

Agenda

1. **Natanya V. to convene the January 8th, 2024 virtual meeting of the LAOB at 5:30pm**
 - a. Welcome, Facilitator Team Introductions, and overview of meeting
 - b. Touchstones
 - i. Listen generously. Speak your truth from your heart & mind.
 - ii. Make the way we work together an example of what’s possible.
 - iii. Trust that we all hold a piece of the puzzle & we need each other’s pieces to understand the whole picture
 - c. LAOB Board Member & Staff Introductions: Name, Identifiers, Board seat and location (county)
2. **Review & Approve Meeting Notes from [December 11th, 2023 meeting](#)** - No revisions requested

<p>3. MOU Wrap-up & Appreciation for Legal Counsel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thank you Robert! Robert has been with the board since Fall 2022 to work on the legal research for the Sunrise Report and continued on for the MOU with VHCB ● Robert shared words of gratitude and encouragement for the next chapter for the LAOB work towards the ambitious and important mission. Expressed on-going support of the board - especially to share perspective with Jean and Ornella as they get going and consider future legal counsel for the LAOB. ● Gratitude for VHCB as well and how our work together awaiting the MOU demonstrates the intention of the agreement itself. ● MOU update - Arnold Thomas countersigned for LAOB today!
<p>4. FY25 Budget Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create separate sub-committee from Advisory Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need members 2-3 to work with Ornella and Jean ● Jan 11th Meeting with a few members of Senate Appropriations and possibly House Appropriations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ meet at the main entrance (atrium in the center of the building) at 11:15 ○ Walk to Room 5 ○ Walk up to Cafeteria by 11:30 to prep for our meeting with Senate Appropriations. ○ Leave the Cafeteria by 11:55 to be ready outside Room 5 when the committee adjourns ● Meet with Senator Perchlick and Senator Kitchel (Chair) of Senate Appropriations ● Potential meeting with Rep Bluemle at 2pm - Anyone available? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Susan is available ○ Brian possibly ○ Jess will share calendar invites
<p>5. Revisit LAOB Priorities - Activity & Discussion</p>	<p><u>Document</u> - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o-YUBEfIFB6br52w028CbLT0KCnkq7hQaqq_xL9GwGg/edit</p> <p><u>ACTIVITY</u>: Each board member has been assigned 1 of the 9 Priorities to reflect on and answer the following sections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1) Plain Language Translation - <i>if needed</i> ○ 2) What has the LAOB done towards this goal since these were adopted in 2022 ○ 3) What are some opportunities to pursue this in 2024? <p><u>Share-out</u>:</p> <p>#1 - Building a Working Model for Equitable Land and Home Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Samantha - If we are seeking funds and opportunities from diverse sources then seeking appropriations this year is a part of establishing our presence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunities - Fee for Service - example;

- **Brian** - It's essential that we insert ourselves into discussions around state investments in Housing. Want to see the LAOB have advisory powers of existing spending. COVID federal funds have to be spent by 2026.
 - **Mark** - 70% of excised taxes for cannabis sales is not being allocated - figured out how to turn it back to the general fund rather than specific investments. Want to learn what's going on and get resources committed to land ownership (especially since there are no federal strings)
- #2 - Securing and Redistributing Resources**
- **Dan** - this is an area where we can make a difference because corporate landlords are buying up properties and renting at high rates, but we could work to enable people in our target populations to be able to buy homes. Maybe we don't enact it all, but could partner with an agency to have price-controlled homes for purchase.
 - **Samantha** - Important area for us to work on our environmental goals. If we define and center those goals it can help inform future work.
- #3 - Recommendations for Establishing Effective Supports in existing programs**
- **Ana** - Some of the work we've been doing leads to this - we hired 2 staff. Want to continue to get information on the housing and real estate center. We are waiting on survey answers from a few, including VHCB and hearing presentations. Using information learned, to direct funding and engage community to see where to invest and what positions should be created - best under organizations people trust and are having good experiences with.
 - **Brian** - We don't have a full handle on funds being spent, and even if people don't want to take our advice. We can create technical resources for people to navigate the existing programs and factors in the market.
 - **Natanya** - this is a common thread
 - **Dan** - Brian's comment sparked ideas. Web info we can publish. We're assembling data/info but then need to find a pathway to communicate outward and will need to explore print and other methods through community organizations to get the word out - eg. NEK Community Action.
- #4 - Build and Implement Technical Resources**
- **Susan** - Would love Robert's perspective and appreciation for Robert's approach. Legal Research for Sunrise Report may also inform this goal/priority.
 - **Samantha** - Think about our intention to explore Reparative Grant models - it was in Sunrise Report and it's in our FY25 Budget Recommendation. This priority should continue to explore and layout possibilities for Reparative grants.
- #5 - Legal Work Group and Research**
- **Mark** - Leveraging communications and outreach, expanding partnerships and cultivating relationships with named organizations. Also could include joint meetings with HEAC and other state bodies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Susan - as I have worked in Developmental Disabilities I see connections with students of color and immigrants, etc. This board has the strength of being cross-sectional. We are already living and can expand the partnership building. <p><u>Next Steps for the Priorities</u> (staff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will revisit #6-9 at the 1/22 meeting ● Full Plain Language Summary ● discuss and plan in upcoming meetings
<p>6. Advisory Powers Learning Journey update</p>	<p><u>Member Update: Ana & Brian</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learning Journey Overview shared via email and in the chat ● Share WORKING DRAFT Summary of Surveys [Ana] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4 responses to date ○ Working Draft & Explanation of document - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fPRtqyol8JVBIDfREFIKjSk69qAytlhMusqoSwORVd8/e/dit#gid=0 ○ Please review ● <u>Next Steps with Survey and Learning Journey</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ana - Brainstorming non-statutory organizations to learn about and engage with ○ Samantha in the chat - This is super helpful as an overview - I can see it being useful as well for things like onboarding new LAOB members ○ Susan - I have lost track of when we'll hear from VHCB. Especially as Staff comes on, I want to know more about how LAOB works, their programs and services as a board member and for staff as they work for them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gus - We would be happy to do that. We were hoping to do it in the beginning and again in the summer. We may have missed the outreach with the survey. Happy to do it in late Feb ○ Samantha - helpful resource and grateful it will be built on. This is the kind of resource that could be useful to people working with marginalized folks on housing and land access. Can see this on our website in the future with infographics. ● Feedback on Presentations and Learning Journey [Brian] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 presentations to date 1/27 VAAFm and 12/11 Dept of Housing - 2 more planned ○ <u>Discussion Questions</u>: What's been working? What could be improved? How to build these relationships?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Samantha - enjoyed them thus far, learn names and faces and lay of the land. It's been helpful for breaking up the meeting format. Incorporating learning into board work feels aligned with priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Would retain more information if there were more interactive parts like breakout rooms. ● Would like to do these in-person or hybrid to have more opportunities to engage and build relationships ■ Susan - As result of meeting with the new Housing Commissioner, DDC is now meeting with him. We didn't know until he spoke here that he has a family member with a disability. The way this board brings people together is really working! So much in VT is about relationships and good to do that with the board ○ Mark - Building on what Susan said. Met him before but seeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If we could replicate this for the HEAC, it would be helpful to our work as we also have agencies on our enabling statute ○ Brian - <i>Closing Reflection</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We can ask our connections for more connections - building a network ■ Hearing the transformative power of relationships ■ We may not just change policy and practice, but can forge new types of relationships with people in the system and the community ■ Xusana - Could be great to ask for connections but also remember to bite off as much as we can chew and collect the information that we will use. Similarly, thinking about our bandwidth to engage at a pace we can act on.
<p>7. Public Comment</p>	<p><i>No comments</i></p>
<p>8. On-boarding Update</p>	<p><u>Member:</u> Dan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In-put from the board requested on 'Recommended Reading' for new staff in addition to existing list <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ → This can also be useful for new board members as well ● Board Support and Supervisor Contacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Susan for Ornella <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Xusana and Samantha are also willing to support ■ Ana for Jean ○ Board involvement will be requested - 1:1s to learn from board members. ● VHCB Timesheet/Supervisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Liz Gleason - Jean ○ Polly - Ornella

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designee for both - Trey ○ Admin Support - Francis
<p>9. Board Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brian - send the board an email about bill language developed with FreeHerVT. Bill related to transitional housing for people coming out of incarceration and named LAOB as an actor in that legislation. Brian has sent the bill for board review and can discuss. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Samantha - love this idea of getting people to think about how to use the board ● Xusana in the chat - the snowstorm reminds me that when we seek to get people into homes or onto land, we need to make sure there's support for them to care for that land or deal with things like snow removal, etc if it's unfamiliar for them or if they are physically unable to do some of these tasks <p><u>Facilitators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next LAOB Meeting Jan 22 5:30-7:30pm - Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) presentation ● Sub-committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On-boarding Committee Wed 1/10 9:30am ○ Advisory Powers & Advocacy Tues 1/16 11am & Tues 1/30 11am
<p>10. Meeting Adjourned 7:30pm</p>	

DOCUMENTS

- **Final version of FY25 Budget Overview** - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jhosjOPoMLZQ9Fc1vWzrQUSj3-PeUiPjOjtOgW3_sCM/edit
- **Learning Journey Overview** - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ejs9Mr-9y3_lhe2mkDeIgTI1A_n1d3G3ZtLXpjt59fw/edit#slide=id.g2563ac66aca_0_60
- **Board Priorities Activity** - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o-YUBEfIFB6br52w028CbLT0KCnkq7hQaqq_xL9GwGg/edit