

Sub-committee: Advisory Powers & Advocacy Relationship-building (Meeting #2)

Land Access and Opportunity Board

June 29th, 2023, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Facilitator: Jessica Laporte CRO’s

Attendee	Present	Not Present
Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity • Brian Cina, NASW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs (VCNAA)
Board Alternates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Morton-Dow, Vermont Releaf Collective • Ashley Devereaux, NASW • Rev. Mark Hughes, VRJA
Guests & Public	Caroline Gordon, Rural VT	

Agenda & Notes

1. Meeting Convened by Facilitator, Jess Laporte @ 5:00pm	
2. Draft 1-pager (Jess & Xusana)	<p>Draft 1-pager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memo from Xusana’s office related to convening LAOB • Working on the document together • Pulling content from presentation for SEC
3. Information Review - Advisory Powers program research example	<p>Looking at LAOB EXTERNAL Contact List - Advocacy and Advisory Powers: Housing & Land Programs for review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check-in on purpose and goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Advising around spending of state funds on housing - for example this year: \$10M is for homelessness and \$50 M for affordable housing. There are social equity 121M in spending ■ Especially no process equity - Jay from the Office of Racial Equity has discussed this as well. People hoard power, don’t involve community and limit input. ■ Hoping LAOB can provide leadership on how we spend \$\$ and involve people to improve process equity ○ Xusana - Process Equity is key <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consultation, meaningful engagement vs. surface consultation ■ State confuses “listening” vs. involvement in decision-making and meaningful engagement ■ In government many folks want to do as little as possible to tick this box ■ LAOB is entering a space with well covered area - many entities and players in the mix

- Want to be involved with Advocacy so that we can stave off duplicative groups
 - Coming with well throughout demands
 - Visibility, consistency and presence has to be established in order to normalize checking-in with LAOB on these initiatives and displace duplication or proliferation of working groups
 - Brian
 - Agree with governor that we can't just create more and more groups around equity or to address minutely distinct housing/
 - The LAOB can and has been tasked with addressing many of these
 - Example: Rural Development Committee
 - Xusana - duplicates VCRD and likely will be asked to be "inclusive" and tap people of color and other marginalized groups to do the work
 - Brian - this was likely a concession and though it was created it wasn't funded by appropriations, which is a common way groups are placated, but not actually empowered.
- **How to work on this further?**
 - Brian - highlighted language in a particular executive order
 - Having versions of the PDFs to comment/highlight
 - Members of the sub-committee digging in to review
 - Creating an action plan of how to go deeper into understanding vs. outreach
 - Xusana - what is the action plan
 - Jess - seems to be phased 1) Learning and understanding then 2) outreach and engagement
 - Brian
 - Phase 1 - what are all the leavers in policy impacting housing spending for the state and ultimately access
 - Phase 2 - defining plan for engagement and how to influence the process
 - Phase 3 - timeline for actions (looking to the future)
 - Strategic feedback and involvement in the recommendations instead of reacting after reports
 - Working with Executive Branch through regular meetings to share ideas and influence initiatives - LAOB could use this approach
 - Get into rhythm of feedback early in process then
 - Jess - Distinction
 - VHFA and VHCB's on-going programs vs. imminent policies and spending that is tied to the legislative session
 - Xusana - VT is so small that the individual policies/committees are highly overlapped with the on-going programs so difficult to distinguish
 - Jess

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We can gather information on both types at once so when we reach out on a sp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Brian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commissioners - establish relationships as LAOB not Brian or others as individuals ● Other combinations to ask information and open door to weigh-in on - Moira Collins and Monica Hutt ○ Jess <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ How to get started and approach this? ■ Can those who are more comfortable/engaged (Brian, Xusana and Kirsten) model to someone else who is learning (other LAOB members)? ○ Xusana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Momentum of little steps can make the group feel they are doing something and encourage more work ■ Waiting to reach out in Feb will be late and people won't have capacity ○ Brian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Feb is also too late for reports and relationship building ■ Happy to model/mentor ○ Jess <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Need to lay out a plan and timeline for activities ■ Outreach and going to them simultaneously with outreach to invite them to learn more about the LAOB
<p>4. Public Comment</p>	<p>Caroline Gordon, Rural VT (via chat) Hi everyone, I'm so excited that I found out about this meeting last minute - even though I'm actually getting ready here to head out any minute to get to our in-person board retreat. Please keep me in the loop about future meetings and I'm looking forward to listening in with full presence then and look forward to dialogue as well. Lastly, I'm sharing here our final En-of-Session Recap where we understand the Home Act in concert with the Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act that expresses support for “the historic settlement pattern of compact villages surrounded by rural lands and natural areas” as part of the conservation vision for Vermont that also expressly envisions support for working lands businesses. Given the impairments that the housing crisis, development of price inflation, and lack of economic viability in agriculture impose on land access for farmers and farmworkers these pieces of legislation should inspire to seek policies that would facilitate land access. - https://www.ruralvermont.org/from-the-statehouse-blog/2023/6/27/end-of-session-recap-062623</p>
<p>5. Gathering next steps</p>	<p>Working sessions to draft/create MATERIALS - Created shared Google Drive folder to collaborate on docs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DRAFT LAOB overview summary ● DRAFT Introduction letter ● DRAFT Engagement Methodology

	NEXT MEETING: Poll to be sent to find regular meeting time (weekly) - alternating Working Sessions and Meetings for review and decision-making
6. Board Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brian working with FreeHer on #NoNewPrisons campaign and positioning housing as an alternative to prisons - trying to empower people with lived experience with incarceration to lead. May invite FreeHer to get involved with LAOB
7. Meeting Adjourned at 1:20pm	