Land Access and Opportunity Board: **Hearthtending Committee**
March 26, 2025, 9:30 – 10:30a.m

Meeting Facilitator: Ornella Matta-Figueroa

Attendee	**Present**
Board ● Susan Aranoff, Vermont DDC ● Samantha Langevin, Vermont RELEAF Collective ● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs (VCNAA)	
Guests & Public	

Meeting Notetaker: Jean Hamilton

Agenda

Meeting Convened by Facilitator,_Ornella___ @	
1. Introductions & Check-in	● Name, Nominating Organization, ● Check-in ● Agenda Building
2.Discussion/ Updates	• Co created agenda • Susan - story about patterns • What kind of support does the staff need? • Ornella - updates we are in the base budget, and our situation is looking more secure. • Susan - a client - wants to be connected to the LAOB. On Friday, we were watching the floor debate and voting on: - They paused for the republicans to caucus. They keep repeating “this is a failed program” - How did it go from 500 to 1500 families in the program? - What is up with them not taking responsibility and accountability over the DCF agencies? Who is being held accountable? -They are blaming outsiders ? - Who has been the gatekeeper?

	• Dan - Interesting to look at the system and invite conversation with Sec of Human Services • Susan - Jenny Samuelson is the person to connect with • Ornella - I worry about scapegoating • Samantha - narrative work needed here- because it's easy to avoid responsibility and there is power here. We don't have the tools to address the both/and. • Dan - the first part is starting the conversation. • Ornella - who is going to reach out to Jenny Samuelson. • Susan- Approach it as solution-oriented. Is there a point person? What support would they need? • Ornella - Ok we will reach out to her • First anniversary of staff – check in on how employees are doing and what more the board can do for support • Hearth tending develop a calendar work plan for the year
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	● Reflections ● Next Steps -LAOB reach out to Jenney Samuelson's office ● Gratitudes
Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 AM	

Recurring Zoom Link - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85603029734