Land Access and Opportunity Board: **Hearth tending Committee**
March 5 2025, 9:30 – 10:30a.m

Meeting Facilitator: Ornella Matta-Figueroa

Attendee	**Present**
Board ● Samantha Langevin, Vermont RELEAF Collective ● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs (VCNAA) ● Kirsten Murphy Vermont DDC	● Ornella Matta Figueroa ● Jean Hamilton
Guests & Public	

Meeting Notetaker: Jean Hamilton

Agenda

Meeting Convened by Facilitator,_Ornella___ @ 9:30	
1. Introductions & Check-in	● Name, Nominating Organization, ● Check-in ● Agenda Building
2.Discussion/ Updates	Board Meeting Planning - postponed Statehouse policy on policing - Review of what has happened to date - Disabilities Council and disabilities community is concerned about the lack of clarity on policing. We are under a lot of pressure from legislators like Representative Woods to bring self-advocates,. But self advocates are nervous about coming into the statehouse. People with developmental disabilities are demonized and do behaviors that can be misinterpreted as threatening without the right context and understanding. - Dan – Friend and on tribal council with the recently retired capital police chief. Dale.

	- Ornella – we have heard from others like action circles that they have tried to work with seargent at arms to clarify where advocates can sit. wondering what others think about the LAOB's role in this. Is there someone else that should be leading it? - Dan – wondering about Office of Racial Equity, or TRC – although not sure that this is the TRC's role - Kirsten – maybe HRC, although not totally sure of their purview. Generally we recommend moving forward in coalition to limit the vulnerability of any one of us. - Samantha – appreciate question and encouragement for LAOB always to consider what is our role and who else's role is it. So we can move forward together smartly. - Samantha- also wondering if LAOB could/should create an alternative space. Like could we invite legislators to come talk to constituents outside of the statehouse? Or can we create a space near the statehouse for people to meet, rest, and eat when not actively doing statehouse stuff. - Ornella – another example comes from witnessing town meeting. There was so much dialogue cut off at town meeting, I imagined setting up an open forum for after town meeting for people to debrief what they observed at town meeting and what they couldn't say - Kirsten – we have an office across the street and we are making it available for advocates. On the other hand, I feel like this is the peoples house and it needs to be safe. The only way to be impactful with this group of very busy and patterned lawmakers is to bring people to them. I feel like leadership, sgt at arms and police have an obligation to figure this out - Discussion of de-escalation tactics vs what might escalate this. - Invite a coalition of orgs whose purpose is bringing constituents into the statehouse to a conversation that is not in an emergency setting. Urgency is one of the things that creates stress in the statehouse. - Statehouse has done some work in creating accessibility. - NEXT STEP – develop media strategy for laob. Lena Greenberg may be a good contact as they have some experience with comms strategies.
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	Reflections Next Steps - BOARD MEETING – invite Truth and Reconciliation to present? Gratitudes
Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 AM	

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