Land Access and Opportunity Board: **Policy Committee**

September 16, 2025 2:00-3:00PM

Meeting Facilitator: Jean Hamilton

Meeting Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendees	**Committee Members**
Board ● Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers - VT Chapter ● Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance ● Jaada Longmore ● Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity **Staff** Ornella , Arealles, & Jean	● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs, VT Council on Native American Affairs ● Kirsten Murphy, Vermont Developmental Disability Council ● Susan Aranoff, Vermont DDC ● Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity
Guests & Public	

Agenda

Meeting Convened by Facilitator, Jean @ 2PM	
1. Introductions & Check-in	Name, Nominating Organization, Check-in: Introductions to Arealles Topics of Discussion: Apiaries F125 Appropriation Take Back Shelter For All connecting with Policy Committee How do we hold on to power without money?
2.Discussion/ Updates	Update Budget: Met with Keysha. Update on Shelter for All: Continuing to talk in different spaces, what's going on with shelter policy, what is happening with it? There is a clear need for

	coordination. Haven't heard a clear plan for winter. Is there a policy shaping up? Policy initiatives? What do WE want to do on policy into this session? Gov. vetoed latest attempt on emergency assistance program. Motel vouchers are over. Recruited to present policy ideas. Present various ideas of housing. Wet shelters/low barrier shelters intersect with Shelter for All. Recovery housing, what comes next? What is the mid-long term go? Designing and building. What is the housing needed for people falling through the cracks? We're trying to send remaining money that hasn't been sent. Gov is pushing for deregulation and low-middle home ownership. Not much talk about alternative housing. Our leverage is how the money is spent, what is affordable, accessible. The no or low barrier, intersection across human services. We've got VDH connection. Mental health challenges, There are corrections implications. Going across all departments. Health access are other parties that could be involved. Housing first, want to believe it. Dance has to be done. Prevention spans the spectrum. Harm reduction is a focus point while keeping folks sheltered. Things need to be done in tandem. If we had one strong policy that pulls everything together. What are folks like us doing with growing homes? What compliments this work? Either housing or mental health. We need to be smart about how we position ourselves. All of it needs to happen at the same time. Folks who don't have access to affordable and consistent housing is wrapped up with other health needs. Bringing intersections together (municipal tech assistant, social services, and resiliency hub), working with municipalities across different silos, how would infrastructure look like? Self-governing teams. What does it mean for us to advocate a state of emergency. Can we get administration on board? We can show them the numbers. Is it worth putting our resources in? We want to work collaboratively with the administration. Represent our values and have us in the room. Seeding the ideas where they can grow. Being encouraged Laob and health world tie ins. We met with Julie from CCB. It was a check the box meeting with next steps. To plan a board meeting where we talk about equity report. Invite Monica Hutt(chief prevention officer, state of vt). Meet with prevention. 30% from excise goes to prevention. Amy from action circle gave us a 3 line memo? Health equity advisory council with an meeting coming up. We are starting to lay our collaborators. Build relationship with avhc and prevention. We could use prevention money for community processes. Budget was 30K. Ship update?

	Prevention Equity comes back to it. State health approvement plan. Katie from VDH, roadmap for health & wellbeing. How to address most important health needs. Some Strategies are integrated mental health, expanding workforce, support trauma responsive care, strengthen community. Embrace some of their approach. State health improvement plan. SMPC have been designated to determine administration of 30%. Only one source of prevention funding. Domestic abuse prevention, suicide, online sports betting, coming in from federal funds. Closing out opioid settlement funds. Legislation will determine where that money goes. Preventions funds coming from everywhere. We need to expand our scope of how we are looking and thinking about prevention. Prevention Equity Group fleshing out a mission statement, vision, and goals. Jean: When is the UVM Conference? Mark: October. Submitted a workshop proposal with Prevention Equity Group. We can offer a response for a call to papers. It wasn't accepted. Folks don't want to talk about equity these days. We will be on retreat. Put a doodle out. 4 hours. We will need to cover : about the retreat, report to legislature every year (abbreviated) HEAC appointments, we have got a director of office of equity. We have developmental advisory authority. We need a process, what do we do with information we get. Hope Jean & Ornella to help facilitate retreat in October. Hopeful to be in dialogue Should we be drafting another policy that creates transitional housing with wrap around service? Or are we expecting for it come from somewhere else? Ornella: Thinking about programs v. policy. Brian was this language already in the sanctuary bill. Something that came up. Convening like food lands. We need people to see the overlap. Getting social services, human services, shelter, food, land, recovery treatment, correction all in the room. Who is in charge with foster care? Brian: DCF, they are the ones running foster care and juvenile process. Ornella: Who has authority over program development in DCF? Mark: Erick Radkey, Deputy Commissioner. Another piece is the designated agencies. Conference in Fall you might be interested in. LUND, Easter Seals Brian: Designated ag: mental health agencies, specialized services spectrum pathways Community action agencies: CVOEO, all partners

	Host a policy summit. Unified common agenda. Frank from homeless alliance. We want to help 3 LAYERS OF ENGAGEMENT: impacted people, providers, legislators. Address louder voices. Assembling coalition with common agenda. Not sure if everyone has been in the group. Mark: Lots of layers, managing logistics, social and political aspects, sounds very challenging. Ornella: Reflect back, heard you say moving too quickly is dangerous without investing in building relationships. Jean has relations with many in land and conservation. Who fits the energy? Already working in these social services human services teams? We have a good language and processes on what we could be doing together, co initiations can look like. It's a long-term process. Lots of groups of people. It's going to take many months for an integrated policy. In a couple of years there could be something powerful. Ie. Homes for all work. Brian: We don't need to do everything at once. We should be reaching out to see how policy is developed and how we could plug in. Assert ourselves to existing policy practices that happen. Is anyone else doing it? Mark: Work is challenging. The work is grounding a level set of where we are coming from and approaching it in a novel manner. Jean: We could convene health equity friendlies. Across the board every system is stuck. Mark: Whether we are going to draft a policy? Jean: Create a process timeline. Brian: Run through outline to Bill I was originally proposing. Need to get it requested soon. Jean: Could it happen at Board retreat Brian: We could outline a bill. And have Board Members weigh in. Mark: To what extent would we recommend. May things still on the wall. Economic Just, Reparations Task Force, Health Equity, Racial Equity Expansion and Independence. As LAOB do we want to get behind any of those? Brian: Review elements of other agendas, writing a letter of support/bless as a body, specify what we are going to focus on. Support with research/testimony. Mark: Where this conversation starts should include member organization, they may have a legislative agenda. What's important to them?

	Brian: Look at housing provider stuff. Mark: Housing Education, Development, ect. It is all overlapping. Where there are member organizations with support in their missions makes sense. Figure out a way to be supportive for one another Mark: Racial Justice Civil Rights Campaign. Remember, under executive order 14.288. Ideologically we should be talking about how do we have accountability and transparency that provided, if when, how , to what extended? When are they permitted to cooperate? This is a policy conversation. Captured. On the funding Retraction: Legislative Clarification Memo. Brian and Blumly spoke, house appropriations committee is looking into it.
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	Cannabis Prevention Info. Plan on how to make all this happen: update on what we've already worked on, review LAOB Bill at retreat, break up work, collect member orgs their policies, collect from others and what they are working on. Gather info in advance. All Marks policies are out there. Publicly available. Language to get things done. How will we be supporting policy platforms. We will want to write our own bill/process timeline.
Meeting Adjourned 3:44PM	

Submitted by: Arealles Ortiz