Land Access and Opportunity Board: Policy Committee

February 2nd, 2026, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Meeting Facilitator: Kiah Morris

Notetaker: Kiah Morris & Arealles Ortiz (edited)

Attendees	**Not Present:**
Board • Susan Aranoff, Vermont Developmental Disability Council • Alyssa Beauchamp, Liberation Ecosystem, Inc. • Brian Cina, VT National Association of • Social Workers • Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance • Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs • Jaada Longmore, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance **Staff:** Kiah Morris	• Kirsten Murphy, Vermont Developmental Disability Council • Zack Hughes, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors • Emily Carris-Duncan, Vermont Every Town Project • Xusana Davis, Office of Racial Equity
Guests & Public: None	

Meeting Convened by Facilitator at 11AM	
1. Introductions & Check-in	Name, Nominating Organization Check-ins Agenda Building: -Share any Legislative Updates
2. Discussion/ Updates	Legislative Updates:

	LAOB Bill - (In House Housing & General) Crossover date was set for the Friday after Town Meeting Day, Friday March 13th. We have about 5 weeks of legislature – this is when bills move from senate to house and vice versa. If bills are not passed in either house by crossover date, they will not likely be considered as stand-alone bills. There is a slight chance of LAOB Bill to be included in the omnibus bills. It was introduced last week; there is a bill number in place. o **Ask**: We need testimony and determine what advocacy looks. Board members cannot testify but the sectors or organizational representatives/appointing bodies may be able to offer advocacy **to have the bill taken up by next week.** Members can as *individuals* place a request but not by the board itself. o Creating an Advocacy toolkit could be helpful. Supreme Court Justice Appointments – One appointment that has been alarming is in support of the actions of the presidential administration. ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is being recommended for a floor vote by the senate. Pro Tempore Baruth pushed for the action to come from the group (Senate?) to happen tomorrow, Tuesday, February 3, 2025. This happens every confirmation, but whenever there is opposition Senators will be able to respond. o **Ask**: Contact senators around concerns for the vote as it will happen this week. ▪ Racial Justice Alliance has a form/petition and email to send a blast used last week to send forward. https://vtracialjusticealliance.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1f000d0728d8306dd6b1f2d1c&id=2a8d3f40ca&e=a3faf155be ▪ Senate Calendar - sc260203.pdf Equal Protection Constitutional Amendment – Additional testimony on the amendment will happen this week, if not next. o **Ask:** Please request an opportunity to testify or send along written testimony this week if able. o An act relating to misc. amendments to the prohibitions on discrimination' https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2026/S.301

	Creating a forensic facility S.193 – An institution for those who are not guilty by reason of insanity or not competent to stand trial. Language used in this bill, brain/mental "defect" (actual language used.) We're worried about the criminalization of people with disabilities. o ACLU is bringing a task force together to block initiatives around this and are meeting this week. o **Ask:** Can LAOB testify and speak to S.193 as it is a housing system/justice system issue? o **Comment:** Can we discuss the intersection of the LAOBs' work with how we provide housing for people when they are in the justice system? Senate Housing Bill -$3 million for IDD housing, position at DAIL and housing advocacy, rental assistance. Progress feels encouraging! o No asks for this week.
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	● Reflections ● Next Steps ○ We need testimony for LAOB Bill and determine what advocacy looks ○ Can LAOB testify and speak to S.193 as it is a housing system/justice system issue? ○ What's happening at ACLU? ○ Can we discuss the intersection of the LAOBs' work with how we provide housing for people when they are in the justice system? ○ LAOB Staff: Can we work on creating an Advocacy toolkit for shared language and have a sense of what it is were asking for Policy Committee to do? Also, internally create Policy Blasts that overview, what folks are talking about? Things to watch. ● Gratitudes
Meeting Adjourned at 12PM	

Submitted by: Arealles Ortiz