Land Access and Opportunity Board: Policy Committee

July 27th, 2026 11:00-12:00PM

Meeting Facilitator: Ornella Matta-Figueroa

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendees	Not Present
Board ● Dan Coutu, VT Commission on Native American Affairs, VT Council on Native American Affairs ● Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance ● Andre Comandon, Office of Racial Equity ● Mary Gerisch, NAACP Rutland **Staff:** Arealles Ortiz Ornella Matta-Figueora Jean Hamitlon	● Susan Aranoff, Vermont Developmental Disability Council ● Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers ● Jaada Longmore, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance ● Zack Hughes, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors *Tentative:* - Kirsten Murphy, Vermont Developmental Disability Council
Guests & Public: No members of the public were present.	

Agenda

Meeting Convened by Facilitator at: 11:00AM	
1. Introductions & Check-in	Agenda: Check-Ins: Name, Nominating Organization Prompt: Pick an object near you (on your desk, in your bag, etc.) and share what it means to you? -Review 6.22.26 DRAFT Minutes -Review and Check in on Policy Needs for FY28 -Public Comment

2. Discussion/ Updates	Review 6.22.26 DRAFT Minutes: Mark Hughes makes a motion to approve minutes as presented. Mary Gerisch seconds that motion. Edits: -Andre Comandon, Office of Racial Equity ~~Survivors~~ -Number pages - "We can get caught up in a perpetual cycle of thinking if (**we're**) not identifying the pattern." Dan Coutu abstains due to absence. Mary Gerisch abstains due to absence. All were in favor. Link Shared in the chat: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xFCMr75bFe1RgouUOS-uJMGLcDKRWnFkpeJV1B1sPRM/edit?usp=sharing Question shared: What is missing? What do you not see reflected here? What should we be planning for? Comment: Having a bit more background on the intention for this timeline and the feedback you are looking for would be useful. Getting more of your perspective on this will be useful. Comment: We had a meeting Friday as a team to think about whether or not we should have this meeting. In that meeting, it came up as a priority for us to discuss this timeline. Comment: It occurred that we don't have legislative responsibility to produce an annual report. We had responsibility for an initial report which was on record. **Pin: Discuss capacity to create an LAOB annual report. Comment: The summary laid out is probably stretching everybody thin. Comment: Any outside help may miss the internal context which is important for developing the kind of report that would be useful. Comment: Anything policy related that has to do with the LAOB could be fully integrated into that one policy we created last year.

	Comment: • Establishing roles and responsibilities for this work plan. • Set goals (and maybe performance metrics) for this coming Legislative Session. • Develop an outreach and communications plan for engaging Legislators. Comment: Would like to understand your perspective on how you see advisory powers tying into the policy process. Would like to consider a significant narrowing of LAOB policy work in the Statehouse short of one policy, including appropriations. Comment: If there is an organization already imbedded in arguing about a policy, there's no reason we can't join them.
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	● Reflections: ● Next Steps: - Review and complete a Policy Timeline from a draft - Discussion on LAOB annual report - Discuss Parallel Timelines that include finance calendar, policy calendar, legislative calendar, internal calendar, board calendar. -Establishing roles and responsibilities for this work plan. -Set goals and maybe performance metrics for this coming legislative session. -Develop an outreach and communications plan for engaging Legislators. -Narrowing our LAOB Policy Work. ● Gratitudes
Meeting Adjourned at: 12:00PM	

Submitted By: Arealles Ortiz