Land Access and Opportunity Board: Policy Committee

September 14, 2026, 11:00-12:00PM

Meeting Facilitator: Ornella Matta-Figueroa

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

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

Meeting Convened by Facilitator at: 11:00 AM	
1. Introductions & Check-in	Agenda: -Check Ins Prompt: What's your favorite drink? -Review 7.27.26 DRAFT Minutes

	-Discussion on LAOB Strategic & Board Development Plan -Public Comment
2. Discussion/ Updates	<u>Review 7.27.26 DRAFT Minutes:</u> Dan Coutu makes a motion to approve 7.27.26 minutes as presented. Andre Comandon seconds that motion. All were in favor. <u>Discussion on LAOB Strategic & Board Development Plan:</u> Link Shared: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10eS-IAV1Z4BmoMgF2KzWC6Eo9iT-e7-m?usp=sharing Overviewed 'Central Strategic Choice' opening paragraph. Question: In the opening statement, what does 'community accountable' mean in terms of the LOAB? Are there specific mechanisms? Response: The hope is there would be a symbiotic and persistent relationship with the community and the work LAOB is doing. Comment: A 'community accountable' public institution goes to the strategic direction priority number 2 that speaks to community power and accountability. Community accountability also means empowering the community members from our appointing organizations to inform the direction of the LAOB. Comment: Another piece to community accountable would be to have meetings at one of our community partner locations or in one of our local communities on a consistent basis. Comment: Accountability means there is a level of assessment of what we're doing. There are different communities involved in our work and we should be thinking about which community sits at the table, who is able to engage the most, and how power enters those conversations. Comment: We will need to bake in some checkpoints along the way to make sure that the folks who are legislatively mandated are present as well as those we determine who should be present. Comment: We should think about what decisions the community owns? What are the feedback mechanisms from the community?

	Comment in the chat: The word "opportunity" is a helpful goal for our work. So maybe in the last sentence of the 'Central Strategic Choice' introduction include "build durable pathways to land and housing access, ownership, and 'opportunity'. Read aloud the Strategic Direction, 6 priorities. Comment: In point 5, partnership should be included. How do we define the partnerships in a way that provides us with the necessary materials to understand the needs of Vermonters in terms of housing and land.
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	● Reflections ● Next Steps: - Review Phase 1 of the Board Development Plan & Immediate Board Actions ● Gratitudes
Meeting Adjourned at: 12:00PM	