Land Access and Opportunity Board: Finance Committee
September 18, 2026 12:00PM-1:00PM

Meeting Facilitator: Jean Hamilton

Notetaker: Arealles Ortiz

Attendees	**Not Present:**
Board: ● Zack Hughes, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors ● Jaada Longmore, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance ● Kirsten Murphy, Vermont DD Council ● Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance **Staff:** Arealles Ortiz Jean Hamilton Ornella Matta-Figueroa	● Alyssa Beauchamp, Liberation Ecosystem Inc. ***Tentative:*** ● Brian Cina, National Association of Social Workers, Vermont Chapter
Guests & Public: No members of the public were present.	

Meeting Convened by Facilitator at 12:00 PM	
1. Introductions & Check-in	Agenda: -Check ins -Review DRAFT 8.28.26 & 9.11.26 Minutes -FY28 Budget & Appropriations Discussion -Signing Authority -Public Comment
2.Discussion/ Updates	Review DRAFT 8.28.26 & 9.11.26 Minutes: Zach Hughes makes a motion to approve 8.28.26 minutes as presented. Kirsten Murphy seconds that motion. All were in favor.

	Kirsten Murphy makes a motion to approve 9.11.26 minutes as presented. Zach Hughes seconds that motion. All were favor. <u>FY28 Budget & Appropriations Discussion:</u> Who has decision making power over our appropriation: 1. DFM 2. House Appropriations 3. Senate Appropriations What sources of funding are possible for us? • FY28 Base, level funding (meaning functionally being a cut) • FY28 One Time • FY27 BAA Strategy • Contracts with state agencies • Private Funding -Overviewed the Governors top strategic priorities. LAOB works in the areas outlined. Comment: The budget instructions say that agencies and departments utilizing the general funds, budget increases will be capped at the amount of salary and benefit increases for currently budgeted staff reflected in the collective bargaining agreements effective for FY28. Comment: There will be level funding except for salary increases for people in the Collective Bargaining group. It looks like funding sources across the board outside of federal dollars are on a downward trend. Comment: We will need to be thinking hard about where we will find money and where we can save money. Coti, our budget analyst at DFM, will be here next week and there will be an opportunity to ask her questions. Comment: Worried we will have to make choices down the road and hope we can still maintain our programs.

	Comment: Imagining a strategy that has a Tiered approach. We could ask for funding and also have a fallback position. Thinking about whether BAA is a better strategy than one-time funds. Comment: Our carry forward status will be very important to any argument we make. Wondering about a diversified approach which includes looking for funding outside of the state. Comment: State lawmakers are more comfortable when the state is not the only source of revenue. Worry about being a young organization and proving our Return on Investment. <u>Signing Authority:</u> Overviewed Authorized Signers Resolution Draft. Question: What are the next steps this committee would like to take with this policy? Comment: Set threshold limits for contracts that need board approval. Comment: What authorities are left with the board? We need to create a workplan for the board with priorities and timelines. Question: What are the resolutions at VHCB for authorizing signing authority where staff have jurisdiction to adjust line items within operating costs? Response: Any related projects go to the board for decisions. We present the board with resolutions that detail the program with funding sources. Once they approve that, staff go to the board chair and executive director to ask for supplemental increases for certain awards. Incoming funds are not board decisions. The board decides how we use the funds. The board makes decision on total funds and project funds. Everything else is given to executive director to make decisions on. Question: What happens if an Executive Director takes in funds and the board is not comfortable with its programmatic purpose?

	Response: Any new funding sources are discussed internally and would be mentioned in an executive director's write-up.
3. Process Check-in, Next Steps	● Reflections ● Next Steps: - Look at FY28 at 9/25 Finance Meeting - Pick up Singing authority at the following meeting at 10/2 ● Gratitudes
Meeting Adjourned at 1 PM	