



EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference

Commissioners present:

Kellie Campbell, Nancy Brooks

Commissioners absent:

Advisors present:

Jen Horowitz of Let's Grow Kids, Charlie Gliserman of Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance

Staff present:

Hannah Lane

Presiding:

Kellie Campbell

Recording: Hannah Lane

Called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Moving forward with a series of one-pagers. Related to child care issues.

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of June and July Minutes – Kellie, Seconded by Nancy,

MOTION made by Kellie, Seconded by Nancy

To approve the minutes for June and July as presented.

Motion APPROVED by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Kellie- Yes

Nancy - Yes

b) Feedback on child care documents

- Nancy's piece: early educators, qualified, underpaid, undervalue, predicting attrition when we already have a shortage. Kellie added concerns. Timeline is defined by legislature being back in August.
 - o Jen: Please clarify "lead preschool teacher" as compared to associate or assistant teachers. The legislature has a disconnect that early educators have their own child care needs. Then what? Affordable, accessible child care. We need the nudge to do the right thing. Asking for investments in the workforce. Child care providers not on the hazard pay list. At this point, we don't have a fix to the bind child care workers are in, but rather continuing to educate the legislature about why we need to invest

in the workforce. In the longer term, sustainable changes are needed for the IT & data management system. It cannot add more fields to expand income eligibility. We need investment in IT to move a lot of these pieces forward.

- Charlie: challenges with hybrid school schedules, and the impact on so many people, including teachers and child care workers.
- Kellie's piece: Economic Impact of COVID. Hannah proposed dividing into two separate documents, one focused on the disproportionate impact on women, one on economic impact.
 - Jen: BLS running behind. Massachusetts is doing a research project, VT hasn't opted in. There is a research group out of Oregon on children and families, and a group in DC doing some research on this. LGK has been working on the employer-specific piece and putting together resources about how to better support families. There is a good resource from VT Afterschool.
 - LGK contracted with a firm in TN, who've developed a fantastic tool to help early care and education systems create sub-pools, and have a subsystem like the public education system has. Text message-based.
- Setting aside the recovery piece, Hannah will work on as a separate piece.
 - Jen: Is this backward- or forward-looking? I recommend being clear, framing it as VT needs to be building holistic economic recovery plan. Bringing all the voices to the table and doing the deep, intentional, cross-agency planning together. VT's recovery planning is more segmented. Hawaii's Feminist Economic Recovery Planning has some good language.
 - Charlie: Public engagement is important, folks are having a hard time reaching their legislators.

Child care & education updates:

Kellie was wondering about your understanding of the current models of reopening, the relationship between child care and hybrid school schedules.

Holly @ Vermont Afterschool is focused on K- age 13 and is doing a great job navigating this. There has been strong advocacy that there needs to be a strong, coordinated effort and AOE needs to be leading this. At this point, it seems largely community by community. We are putting a very heavy burden on child care.

Hazard pay leaves out early childhood providers. VT has been taking a strict interpretation of COVID relief funding guidance. VT early childhood educators don't meet the strictest definition of who is eligible by the federal government.

CARES Act. Federal guidance lives in a nightmarish. JFO has a summary of some of those documents,

Please encourage folks to vote.

Folks at school nutrition programs, also exempt.

Adjourned at 10:07 a.m.