

**VAHSA Board of Directors Minutes (ZOOM meeting)
January 20, 2022**

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Call to Order – Alison Noble, President (12:06pm)

- **Present:** Alison Noble (President), Joe Lacey (Treasurer), Dawn Ault (Executive Director), Melissa Palombi (Communications & Events Manager), Brandi Miller (T/TA), Taundwa Jeffries (HSCCO).
 - **Northeast:** Isha Barrie, Jennifer Tonkin, Kathy Channell
 - **Northwest:** Ashley Rhodenizer, Fay Butcher, Kerri Banks, Cynthia Hutchinson
 - **Southeast:** Katie Quigley, Chanell Paynter, Beth Parker
 - **Southwest:** Shirley Wells, Kim Hill, Kim Austin

President Update – Alison Noble

- “Ready Region Hubs” created to help Smart Beginnings cover all communities. Coalition names will still be changed, TBA.

Approval of October 2021 Minutes – Motion made by Faye Butcher; Second by Isha Barrie. Motion carried.

TTA Updates – Brandi Miller

- PD Bulletin Board
- Supporting Families with Substance Abuse & Recovery PD opportunity – focused on all substance abuse disorders.
- Reach out to TTA Network is programs need support

HSCCO Updates – Taundwa Jeffries

- New Governor in VA – new executive orders. Order #2 (reaffirming rights of parents in education, right to opt out of mask mandate and no documentation required). VDOE is working to update guidance to schools. See report for more information on Order #3 & 4 that also relate to education.
- Governor may include VA in the litigation concerning Head Start vaccine mandates.
- VDOE Superintendent of Public Instruction: Jillian Balow (from Wyoming). Joined by new staff Dicky Shanor and Elizabeth Schultz.
- House Bill 389 (Establishment of Ready Region Hubs, coordinating VQB-5, and child care subsidies). Look for status updates in the future.
- VQB-5: Moving forward with practice year two. Participating programs have entered information on initial observations. Currently working on Spring CLASS observations.
- Comprehensive 3 and 4 year old enrollment analysis underway. Data will be shared when completed.
- HS Needs Assessment Survey will be sent out to programs concerning 2020-21 program year. Two-week window for completion. Hoping to increase participation (73% last year).
- Weekly updates available from VDOE:
<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/early-childhood/readiness-connections/index.shtml>
- Information shared during weekly director’s meetings in the Google Docs Drive. Please be advised information is changing frequently.

Treasurer Report – Joe Lacey

- Financial reports shared. Current equity: \$446,329.21.
- Deposits for two conferences were lost due to cancelled conferences (\$7,000). This amount will be moved from pre-paid on the report.
- Will be applying for Payroll Protection Program 2 forgiveness in the future.

Executive Director Report, including Advocacy Update - Dawn Ault

- State Advocacy: Working to ensure budget language continues to include filling Head Start slots before VPI slots. Possibility of VA joining in the vaccine mandate lawsuit.
- Federal Advocacy: Continuing to work with NHTSA concerning program flexibilities due to continued COVID crisis. Programs now have continued flexibility concerning full enrollment for this program year. Clarification from OHS by January 31, 2022 concerning enforcing vaccine mandates. Watching Build Back Better Reconciliation, FY 23 Appropriations.
- NHTSA: Working with NHTSA on push for Universal PK, eligibility updates to include SNAP, and staff shortage issues. Eligibility changes may be included in Reauthorization. Coordinating meetings during NHTSA Winter Leadership Institute – January 26, 2022.
- DentaQuest donation \$5000 given to Association. Funds spent on gift cards for Starbucks (\$1000), web redesign, and marketing.
- Video marketing idea presented. Suggestion to reach out to VCU Brandcenter students. Suggestion to also work with “Ready Regions” because an Early Childhood video may help with unified enrollment system.
- Conference Updates: Virtual Health & Family Institute (March 28 – April 1); Director’s Council- VA Beach (June 21-23); Annual Conference – Portsmouth (October 25-27) TBD if in-person or virtual.

Communications & Events Manager Report – Melissa Palombi

- New logo and updated website shared. Official launch is February 28th.
- Event Planning: ongoing collaboration with Region III, FSW Networks, virtual Health & Family Institute.
- Including sponsors in virtual training – sponsors will introduce sessions and will have 5 mins at the beginning.
- Social Media: Working with Hootsuite program to help coordinate social media posts (Twitter, Instagram, and FB)
- Manon Marketing has helped with website set up. Helping to ensure uniformity and clarity.

Review of Website and Logo/Branding Progress – Dawn & Melissa

- Building Community, Building Networks, and Building Professional Development
- New site is streamlined and easy for programs to find information and register for events. Site includes testimonials and community information.

Finance Committee/Governance Committee

- Bylaws – Community Rep. Membership, bottom pg. 5, Sec.2 (g)(ii). Proposed community representative would not represent a specific region, but the state. There would still be 4 and the person would have to work within state of Virginia. “Work” includes volunteer. Discussion concerning ensuring all regions are represented by community members. Nominations for new members would come from the Regions and Board would be mindful to ensure all areas are represented. Motion made by Katie Quigley; Second by Kathy Channell. Motion carried.
- Strategic Plan: Motion made by Fay Butcher; Second by Isha Barrie. Motion carried.

Conference / Scholarship Committee

- Annual Conference (Portsmouth), Oct 25-27, 2022. Discussion of risks with in-person and possibility of hybrid. Calls for proposals need to start for planning purposes. Have asked hotel about changing the number of persons.
- Discussion of engaging in a virtual world. Possibility of asking presenters “plan to engage virtually”.
- Discussion on need for smaller, more focused trainings if they are going to be in-person.
- Programs are struggling with staffing and there are concerns about ability to send staff (especially classroom staff) out of town for a conference.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:06pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Approved minutes in VAHSA Board meeting April 19, 2022

