

**Land Access and Opportunity Board Meeting**  
**Nov. 21, 2022, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Facilitator: Kirsten Murphy**  
**Meeting Notes**

Facilitator Kirsten Murphy convened the Nov. 21, 2022 meeting of the LAOB at 5:35 p.m. with a quorum of the Board present. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Kirsten Murphy, Vermont Development Disabilities Council; Samantha Langevin, Vermont RELEAF Collective; Rev. Mark Hughes, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance; Arnold Thomas, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance; Xusana Davis, Director of Racial Equity; Jon Bosley, Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs; Pacifique Nsengiyumva, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Vermont; Raheemah Madany, Pride Center of Vermont

Board Members not present: Jess Laporte, Vermont Every Town Project; Lynn Stanley, National Association of Social Workers, Vermont; Karim Chapman, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors; aomi Moody, NAACP Vermont Chapters

VHCB Staff / LAOB Attorneys present: Gus Seelig, VHCB; Trey Martin, VHCB; Anthony Iarrapino, WILO Firm

Members of the Public present: Lorna Garfield-Donaghy; Buster Caswell; Malcolm Greene

1. Meeting Notes from November 7, 2022 were reviewed and the following edits were suggested.

Correct Miha Longmore's name in the section on public comment. Spelled correctly the first time, but incorrectly the second time it appears in that section.

Correct Pacifique's last name on website to "Nsengiyumva"

2. The Board discussed the revised Priorities and Objectives Document prepared by Pastor Thomas. Additional changes and revisions were made to the document, which will be posted as a working draft on VHCB's LAOB webpage.
3. Kirsten Murphy and Samantha Langevin introduced LAOB external counsel Anthony Iarrapino. Robert Appel was also introduced by name, though he was not able to be present. Samantha provided an overview of the initial working group meeting with attorneys Iarrapino and Appel.

Meeting protocols were set, including ongoing working group meetings with the attorneys, open hours when the attorneys would be available to the Board to answer questions, and attendance at LAOB meetings:

- Working group meetings will be scheduled on alternate weeks to LAOB full board meetings.

- Office hours will be scheduled at least once per month to allow board interactions with the attorneys.

The attorneys' work plan includes a division of labor for research and analysis into the legal barriers and options for the Board's programs and work. The attorneys noted that there are different current barriers and legal constraints, as well as distinct tools and opportunities, that impact different groups within the broad category of historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities.

Board members raised questions about the intersections of marginalization – for example how poverty interacts with structural racism, and where structural racism is not addressed by efforts to redress poverty – and how the Board will undertake the work of challenging the status quo in the current legal environment.

Response from Anthony Iarrapino: The Board is right to seek out understanding of both legal barriers and tools available to the pursuit of justice. It is critical to survey and define that legal landscape, and then the Board can decide where to encourage the General Assembly to follow and expand existing rules, and where to challenge and push beyond the legal limits and status quo.

#### 4. Public Comment

- Buster Caswell offered comments about the importance of farmworkers and farm production at this time of giving thanks. Encouraged the Board and guests to consider how lucky we are to have access to local food, food security, and neighbors. Two resources provided were:
  - <https://ruralhousingcoalition.org/2022/09/28/hearing-on-u-s-department-of-agricultures-rural-housing-service-stakeholder-perspectives/>
  - [https://www.banking.senate.gov/hearings/examining-the-us-department-of-agricultures-rural-housing-service?fbclid=IwAR0H8BPkOQoOfMCIS8z\\_nbv5OFpLROLXN\\_CcOoIOW4gamX0TxV-ggsV1CQ0](https://www.banking.senate.gov/hearings/examining-the-us-department-of-agricultures-rural-housing-service?fbclid=IwAR0H8BPkOQoOfMCIS8z_nbv5OFpLROLXN_CcOoIOW4gamX0TxV-ggsV1CQ0)
- Malcom Greene offered thanks and appreciation for the Board's work and wordsmithing on the Priority Objectives document.

#### 5. Review/preview/final comments

- Rev. Hughes offered additional comments about the initial scope of work and questions offered by external counsel and urged the Board to recall that the challenge ahead of the Board is not just to find options to proceed in accord with the 1964 Civil Rights Act and other existing legal frameworks, but to challenge the status quo and seek opportunities to change the law and move past current limitations.

- Monthly office hours will be scheduled with the attorneys and we will follow up with that scheduling information as soon as possible.
- An LAOB facilitator is needed for the upcoming Dec. 5 meeting.
- Xusana Davis tentatively offered to facilitate on Dec. 19.