

STATE OF VERMONT  
VERMONT AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

Public hearing on AHS Block Grants  
taken on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at  
1 p.m. via videoconference.

APPEARANCES:

Dawn O'Toole, AHS  
Candace Elmquist, AHS  
Lily Sojourner, DCF  
Megan Smeaton, DCF  
Emily Trutor, VDH  
Sarena Boland, AHS  
Ilisa Stalberg, Maternal & Child Health  
Richard Giddings, ESD  
Connie Harrison, VDH  
Cara McSherry, DMH  
Karen Kelley, VDH  
Susan Kamp, VDH  
Megan Hoke, VDH  
Karolyn Long, Child Development Division  
Alison Blaney, AHS  
Stephen DeVoe, DMH

Court Reporter: Kim Sears, RPR

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1 MS. O'TOOLE: All right. Greetings,  
2 everyone. Good afternoon.

3 Hope you're enjoying this really warm  
4 weather. Welcome to the HSA Block Grant Hearing.  
5 I'm Dawn O'Toole. I'm the Chief Operations Officer  
6 for the Agency of Human Services.

7 And I want to start off with  
8 introductions. So I'll just call out your name as I  
9 see you on the screen. Let's start with Candace.

10 MS. ELMQUIST: Candace Elmquist, AHS  
11 Finance Office.

12 MS. O'TOOLE: Lily?

13 MS. SOJOURNER: Lily Sojourner, DCF  
14 Office of Economic Opportunity, Community Services  
15 Block Grant.

16 MS. O'TOOLE: Great. Megan.

17 MS. SMEATON: I'm Megan Smeaton,  
18 Financial Director, DCF.

19 MS. O'TOOLE: Emily.

20 MS. TRUTOR: Emily Trutor, the Deputy  
21 Director for the Vermont Department of Health's  
22 Division of Substance Abuse Programs, formerly known  
23 as ADA.

24 MS. O'TOOLE: Long time, no see. Kim.

25 MS. SEARS: I'm Kim, the court

1 reporter.

2 MS. O'TOOLE: Sarena.

3 MS. BOLAND: Sarena Boland, AHS Fiscal  
4 Office.

5 MS. O'TOOLE: Ilisa. Long time, no see  
6 also.

7 MS. STALBERG: Hi, everyone. I'm Ilisa  
8 Stalberg. I'm the Director of Maternal and Child  
9 Health representing the MCH Block Grant.

10 MS. O'TOOLE: Richard.

11 MR. GIDDINGS: Richard Giddings,  
12 Director of Fuel and Utility Assistance Program.  
13 Economic Services Division.

14 MS. O'TOOLE: Connie.

15 MS. HARRISON: I'm Connie Harrison,  
16 Financial Director at the Department of Health.

17 MS. O'TOOLE: Cara.

18 MS. McSHERRY: Hi. Cara McSherry,  
19 Department of Mental Health Financial Manager.

20 MS. O'TOOLE: And Karen.

21 MS. KELLEY: Karen Kelley, the  
22 Financial Administrator at the Health Department.

23 MS. O'TOOLE: Susan.

24 MS. KAMP: Susan Kamp, and I'm here on  
25 behalf of the Preventive Health and Health Services

1 Block Grant at Vermont Department of Health.

2 MS. O'TOOLE: And the other Megan.

3 MS. HOKE: Megan Hoke, Financial  
4 Manager, VDH Business Office.

5 MS. O'TOOLE: Great. Did I miss  
6 anyone?

7 MS. ELMQUIST: There is one more in the  
8 room.

9 MS. LONG: I'm Karolyn Long, Director  
10 of Operations for the Child Development Division.

11 MS. O'TOOLE: All right. Welcome.

12 Under the State of Vermont statute we  
13 must announce the public hearing so community members  
14 have a right to attend meetings of public agencies.

15 Advertisements of the public hearing  
16 were placed in the Times Argus, Rutland Herald,  
17 Burlington Free Press, Brattleboro Reformer, and  
18 Bennington Banner on Friday, July 1, 2022. An  
19 electronic notice was also posted on the public  
20 library's website.

21 Additionally, legislative leaders of  
22 the Joint Fiscal Committee were notified via email of  
23 the public hearing. Electronic summary documents as  
24 well as full draft grant applications are available  
25 on the AHS internet. I should note that these block

1 grants and the respective programs and amounts are,  
2 for the most part, included in the state fiscal year  
3 2023 budget contained in the Appropriations Act, 2022  
4 Act 185. Until the federal fiscal year 2023 budget  
5 is enacted into law, we will submit our plans using  
6 the estimated allocations based on the federal fiscal  
7 year 2022 funding levels.

8 At this point we will take questions  
9 from the public. As you heard in the introductions,  
10 the individuals present today are members from each  
11 department who will address any specific concerns or  
12 questions regarding these grants. We will record  
13 your questions and provide a formal written response  
14 as soon as possible. In addition, we will post all  
15 questions and answers to the Agency of Human Services  
16 website.

17 Hearing no questions, we will keep this  
18 line open for 20 minutes in the event that a member  
19 of the public has a question.

20 (Pause)

21 MS. O'TOOLE: We have two late comers  
22 that we will have introduce themselves.

23 MS. BLANEY: Hi. I'm Alison Blaney.  
24 I'm from AHS.

25 MS. O'TOOLE: And Steve, go ahead.

1 MR. DeVOE: Thank you. I apologize for  
2 being late. My name is Steve DeVoe. I'm the  
3 Director of Quality and Accountability at the  
4 Department of Mental Health.

5 MS. O'TOOLE: And just to catch up our  
6 late comers, we have had no questions so far. And  
7 if we don't have any by 1:25, we will conclude the  
8 meeting.

9 (Recess was taken.)

10 MS. O'TOOLE: Okay. Hearing no  
11 inquiries at all from the public, this concludes the  
12 AHS Block Grant Hearing. Thanks everyone so much for  
13 your participation.

14 (Whereupon, the proceeding was  
15 adjourned at 1:25 p.m.)  
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## CERTIFICATE

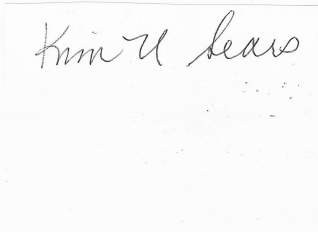
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2  
3 I, Kim U. Sears, Registered Professional  
4 Reporter, certify:

5 That the foregoing proceedings were reported  
6 stenographically by me at the time and place herein set  
7 forth;

8 That the foregoing is a true and correct  
9 transcript of my shorthand notes so taken to the best of  
10 my ability;

11 That I am not a relative or employee of any  
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13 The certification of this transcript does  
14 not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means  
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16 certifying reporter.

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23 My commission expires January 31, 2023.  
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>O</b></p> <p>05402-0329 - 1:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p>1 [2] 1:3, 4:18 185 - 5:4 19 - 1:3 1:25 [2] 6:7, 6:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p>20 - 5:18 2022 [4] 1:3, 4:18, 5:3, 5:7 2023 [3] 5:3, 5:4, 7:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p>31 - 7:23 329 - 1:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p> <p>802 - 1:24 863-6067 - 1:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p>ability - 7:10 Abuse - 2:22 Accountability - 6:3 Act [2] 5:3, 5:4 action - 7:12 ADA - 2:23 addition - 5:14 Additionally - 4:21 address - 5:11 adjoined - 6:15 Administrator - 3:22 Advertisements - 4:15 afternoon - 2:2 agencies - 4:14 Agency [3] 1:1, 2:6, 5:15 ahead - 5:25 AHS [10] 1:2, 1:8, 1:8, 1:10, 1:15, 2:10, 3:3, 4:25, 5:24, 6:12 Alison [2] 1:15, 5:23 allocations - 5:6 amounts - 5:1 and/or - 7:15 announce - 4:13 answers - 5:15 apologize - 6:1 APPEARANCES - 1:7 applications - 4:24 apply - 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