STATE OF VERMONT AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

Public Hearing on AHS Block Grants and State Plans taken on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, by videoconference, beginning at 2 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

Todd Daloz, Deputy Secretary VT AHS
Sarena Boland, AHS
Megan Mack, DCF
Karolyn Long, DCF
Ari Kisler, OEO
Ed Dwinell, DCF
Jim Uber, DAIL
Steve DeVoe, DMH
Alex Venafra, DMH
Adam Mozisek, VDH
Megan Hoke, VDH
Katherine Richardson VDH
Katie Stetler, VDH
Courtney Smalt, VDH
Ciara Kilburn, Steps to End Domestic Violence

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MS. BOLAND: I think that we probably could get started. This is the FY25 Public Annual 3 Block Grant and State Planning public hearing. We have a transcriptionist, Kim Sears. So what we would 5 like to do is go through everyone who is here and 6 introduce yourselves for her attendance record. I can start. I'm Sarena Boland, and I'm the Financial Manager for the Agency of Human Services Fiscal Department, and more specific part of 10 the Grants Management Unit. MR. DALOZ: Yes. Sarena, if you just 12 want to call on people, that may be the most 13 efficient way to --14 MS. BOLAND: Sure. Why don't you go 15 ahead, Todd. 16 MR. DALOZ: Hi, folks. Todd Daloz he/ 17 him pronouns. I am the Deputy Secretary of the 18 Agency of Human Services. I'll go through a little 19 spiel here in a minute once we all introduce 20 ourselves. MS. BOLAND: How about we start with 22 DCF.

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for DCF on the Cost Allocation Team. And I am a Financial Manager II. And I work under Ed Dwinell,

MS. MACK: Megan Mack.

I work on --

1	who is here.
2	MS. BOLAND: Okay. Next in DCF?
3	MS. LONG: This is Karolyn Long. I'm
4	the Director of Operations for the Child Development
5	Division and the Department for Children and
6	Families. Hi.
7	MS. BOLAND: Hi.
8	MS. KISLER: This is Ari Kisler with
9	the Office of Economic Opportunity here for the
10	Community Services Block Grant.
11	MS. BOLAND: Go ahead.
12	MR. DWINELL: Ed Dwinell, DCF business
13	office. We handle all the federal claiming for the
14	Block Grants and the Plan.
15	MS. BOLAND: Anyone else from DCF?
16	(No response)
17	MS. BOLAND: All right. Let's move on
18	to DAIL.
19	MR. UBER: Good afternoon. This is Jim
20	Uber. I'm the DAIL Financial Director.
21	MS. BOLAND: Thank you. Anyone else
22	from DAIL?
23	MR. UBER: I think I'm it.
24	MS. BOLAND: Okay. I'm not certain if

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anyone from DOC is here. They are not really a part

of the Block Grant, but they are part of the Agency of Human Services. So I think the invitation was given to everyone. So if anyone from DOC is here feel free to jump in and introduce yourselves. (No response) MS. BOLAND: Let's move on to DMH. MR. DEVOE: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Steve DeVoe, he/him pronouns. I'm the Director of Quality and Accountability at DMH, and then I'm also our State Planner for our Community Mental Health Block Grant. MS. VENAFRA: Hello. I'm Alex Venafra. She/her pronouns. I'm a Financial Manager III supporting our federal grants and all our sub grants. MS. BOLAND: Anyone else from DMH? (No response)

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MS. BOLAND: Okay. Let's move on to VDH.

MR. MOZISEK: I'm Adam Mozisek. I am a Federal Grant Administrator in the Business Office, and I prepare the financials for the Substance Abuse Block Grant and the Public Health and Human Services -- Preventative Health and Human Services Block Grant.

MS. HOKE: Megan Hoke. I'm a Financial

Director of Vermont Department of Health. 1 MS. RICHARDSON: 2 I'm Katherine 3 Richardson, she/her pronouns. I'm the Health 4 Division Admin for the Planning Unit, and I'm the 5 Block Grant Coordinator for PHHS Block Grant. 6 you. 7 MS. STETLER: Hi, everybody. I'm Katie 8 Stetler. I'm the Director of Planning and 9 Improvement at the Health Department, also at the 10 Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. 11 MS. SMALT: Hi. My name is Courtney 12 Smalt, I sit in SVH, and I'm the Title 5 MCH Block 13 Grant Coordinator. 14 MS. BOLAND: Anyone from Agency of 15 Human Services? 16 (No response) 17 MS. BOLAND: Let's move to anyone from 18 DVHA. 19 (No response) 20 MS. BOLAND: Okay. I think the floor 21 is all yours now. 22 MR. DALOZ: Thank you, Sarena. I also 23 just to want to make sure is there anyone else who we 24 didn't introduce or needs to be introduced just in

case they hopped on later.

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MS. KILBURN: Hi, everybody. My name is Ciara Kilburn. I'm the Director of Housing Services at Steps to End Domestic Violence.

MR. DALOZ: Great to have you. Thank you. Anyone else?

(No response)

MR. DALOZ: Okay. Well let me jump in to the formal portion of today's meeting. Good afternoon, folks. Welcome to the Agency of Human Services Block Grant and State Planning hearing. I'm Todd Daloz, the Deputy Secretary with the Agency of Human Services.

Under federal regulation we must, prior to the beginning of a new federal fiscal year, conduct a public hearing for the following federal block grants and state plans administered by Agency of Human Services: Social Services Block Grant. The Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant. The Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant. The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. The Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. And the Community Services Block Grant.

Under State of Vermont statute we must announce the public hearing as community members have

a right to attend meetings of public agencies.

Advertisement and notices of public hearing were placed in the Burlington Free Press, the Bennington Banner, the Times Argus, Brattleboro Reformer and Rutland Herald on Friday, May 31, 2024. An electronic notice was also posted to the State of Vermont Public Libraries' website.

Additionally, legislative leaders in the Joint Fiscal Committee were notified via email of this public hearing. Electronic summary documents, as well as full draft grant applications, are available on the AHS internet site and by request.

I should note that these Block Grants and State Plans and the respective programs and amounts are for the most part included in the state fiscal year 2025 budget.

At this time we will take questions from the public. As you heard in the various introductions, the individuals present today are members from each department who will address any specific concerns or questions regarding these grants and plans. We will record your questions and provide a formal written response as soon as possible if one is not given during the course of the meeting. In addition, we will post all questions and answers to

the Agency of Human Services' website.

So now I want to just open the floor for any public questions or comments from any member of the public who is joining us today.

(Pause)

MR. DALOZ: So for folks joining for the first time, we are going to just wait about a minute of silence if that's what we end up with in case anybody wants to -- is having trouble connecting or otherwise. And then we will end up leaving the line open, and I request that people stay available and in the meeting for about 20 minutes. I'll let you know exactly at what time we will wrap up, but just to make sure if people are joining late, we give the public ample opportunity to ask questions and make requests for information about these various and very important programs.

So let me just give another 20 seconds of silence, and as long as folks are still available, we will leave the line open for about 20 minutes.

(Pause)

MR. DALOZ: All right. By my clock, we will keep the line open and respond to questions until 2:33. So if folks could stick around, I will close the meeting when we -- if we don't get any

further questions -- at 2:33. So thanks for hanging in there, and we will respond to any questions as they come up.

(Pause)

MR. DALOZ: It is 2:23. We will keep the line open for another 10 minutes until 2:33 absent any questions or comments from the public.

(Pause)

MR. DALOZ: All right. The time is 2:33. We kept the line open for about 20 minutes after our initial opening of this year's annual public hearing on Agency of Human Services Block Grants and State Plans. Barring any last minute public questions or comments, we will close the meeting. Thanks, everybody, for coming. Thanks for being available, and I think probably most importantly, thanks for all the work it takes to get the Block Grants together and then get the money out the door to really support pretty incredible work across the state in support of all those Vermonters we serve.

So thanks very much, and please stay cool for the next couple days and make sure folks you know are also staying cool. Take care.

MS. BOLAND: Thank you.

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I certify that the foregoing is a correct

______ /s/ Kim U. Sears
Date Kim U. Sears

transcript from the record of proceedings in the

above-entitled matter.

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