

**State of Vermont  
Agency of Human Services**

**Public Hearing on AHS Block Grants  
Tuesday, July 20, 2021  
280 State Drive  
Waterbury, Vermont**

*APPEARANCES via Microsoft Teams and telephone:*

Susan Bailey – AHS CO

Sarena Boland – AHS CO

Andrea De La Bruere – AHS CO

Richard Donahey – AHS CO

Jim Euber – AHS DAIL

Ed Dwinell – AHS DCF

Richard Giddings – AHS DCF

Heather Mattison – AHS DCF

Lily Sojourner – AHS DCF OEO

Meagan Smeaton – AHS DCF

Nicole Tousignant – AHS DCF

Sarah Truckle – AHS DCF

Gabrielle Cummings – AHS DMH

Nicole DiStasio – AHS DMH

Charlotte Goodrich – AHS VDH

Connie Harrison – AHS VDH

Karen Kelley – AHS VDH

Laura Pentenrieder – AHS VDH

Ilisa Stalberg – AHS VDH

Emily Trutor – AHS VDH

(MEETING COMMENCED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 PM)

MS. BOLAND: Good afternoon, everyone. Just to let you know, we will be recording this meeting, so please keep your microphones on mute unless you are speaking. Thank you.

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Welcome to the AHS Block Grants Public Hearing. My name is Andrea De La Bruere, and I am the Executive Director with the Secretary's Office of the Agency of Human Services. I'd like to do a quick round of introductions. I think it's probably easier for me to call out the various departments and have you introduce yourselves. So, let's start with the Central Office folks.

MS. BAILEY: Hello, I'm Susan Bailey, and I work in the Central Office.

MR. DONAHEY: I'm Rich Donahey. I work in the Central Office.

MS. BOLAND: I'm Sarena Boland and I work in the Central Office as well.

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Anyone else? Okay, how about the Business Office?

(Silence)

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Okay, how about the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living?

(Silence)

MS. DE LA BRUERE: All right, how about the Department of Health?

MS. HARRISON: I'm Connie Harrison, from the Business Office.

MS. PENTENRIEDER: Hello, this is Laura Pentenrieder, from the Vermont Department of Health.

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Thank you. Anyone from ADAP?

MS. STALBERG: I think we're still in the Health Department. I guess ADAP isn't Health Department. I'm Ilisa Stalberg, from Maternal & Child Health, and I oversee the Title V Block Grants.

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Thank you.

MS. KELLEY: I'm Karen Kelley from the VDH Business Office.

MS. TRUTOR: And I'm Emily Trutor, from the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs.

MS. GOODRICH: I'm Charlotte Goodrich from the Business Office.

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Thank you very much. Anyone else from that department? All right, how about the Department of Mental Health?

MS. DiSTASIO: Hi, I'm Nicole DiStasio from the Department of Mental Health.

MS. CUMMINGS: Hi, I'm Gabrielle Cummings from the DMH Business Office.

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Anybody else? The Department of Vermont Health Access?

(Silence)

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Department of Corrections?

(Silence)

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Did I miss anyone?

MS. SOJOURNER: The Department for Children and Families. This is Lily Sojourner with the Office of Economic Opportunity. I'm sorry if I missed out earlier.

MR. GIDDINGS: And Richard Giddings, Department for Children and Families, LIHEAP Program Director.

MR. DWINELL: Ed Dwinell, for DCF in the Business Office.

MS. MATTISON: Heather Mattison, Child Development Division, DCF.

MS. TOUSIGNANT: Nicole Tousignant, Economic Services.

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Perfect.

MS. TRUCKLE: Sarah Truckle, DCF Business Office.

MS. SMEATON: Meagan Smeaton, DCF Business Office.

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Great, thank you. Anyone else?

MR. EUBER: Jim Euber, DAIL Business Office.

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Okay. 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 administered by AHS:

Social Services Block Grant

Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant

Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Title III of the Older Americans Act State Plan

Title IV-B Child Welfare Services State Plan

Under State of Vermont statute, we must announce the public hearing, as community members have the right to attend meetings of public agencies. Advertisements of the public hearing were placed in the Times Argus, Rutland Herald, Burlington Free Press, Brattleboro Reformer, and Bennington Banner on July 2, 2021. An electronic notice was also posted on the Public Libraries website. Additionally, community partners were notified via email of the public hearing.

I should also note that these block grants and the respective programs and amounts were approved as part of the state fiscal year 2022 budget contained in the Appropriations Act, Act 74 of the 2021 legislative session. These plans reflect estimated allocations consistent with the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 allocations. Until the FFY 2022 budget is enacted into law, we will submit our plans using estimated allocations.

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

MS. BOLAND: Great, so now at this time, we will just kind of hang out and see if anybody shows up, if anyone has any questions from the public. We'll give them up until 2:30, so it looks like we'll all kind of be on hold for the next 22 minutes, unless someone does show up. But at this time, if you just all want to mute your mics and we'll see if anyone shows up. Thank you.

(22 Minutes of Silence)

MS. BOLAND: OK, so that was our allotted time to allow the public to have any concerns or questions. So, if there are any questions that any of you have, contact the AHS CO-CAP by email, and there will be a transcript available of this meeting if you need it for your department records. And at this time, I will have Andrea close out our meeting.

MS. DE LA BRUERE: Thanks, Sarena. Thank you, everyone, for joining us for today's hearing. Have a great day.

MS. BOLAND: Thank you.

(MEETING CONCLUDED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:30 PM)