

State of Vermont
Agency of Human Services

Public Hearing on AHS Block Grants taking on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at
280 State Drive, Waterbury, Vermont.

APPEARANCES via Microsoft Teams and telephone:

Sarena Boland-AHS

Susan Bailey-AHS

Jill Gould-AHS

Richard Donahey-AHS

Richard Giddings-DCF

Lily Sojourner-OEO

Cara McSherry-DMH

Jessica Bernard-DMH

Connie Harrison-VDH

Jordan Goodwin-DAIL

Heather Mattison-DCF

Lisa Stalberg- VDH

Emily Trutor-VDH

Karen Kelley-VDH

Charlotte Goodrich-VDH

Susan Kamp-VDH

Jillian Niggel-DCF

Judy Morse-AHS

Gabrielle Cummings-DMH

(COMMENCING AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00PM)

MS. BOLAND: This meeting will be recorded and please mute yourself unless speaking. Okay, all set.

MS. HARTE: Good afternoon, welcome to the Block Grant Hearing. I'm Alison Harte, I'm the director of Policy and Program Integration with the Vermont Agency of Human Services. I'd like to do a quick round of introductions. And I am going to call folks out by department, to make it sort of less confusing. And if I miss you, just let me know. Department of Aging and Independent Living and Aging, DAIL?

MR. GOODWIN: Yes, this is Jordan Goodwin, in the DAIL business office.

MS. HARTE: Terrific. Thank you. Someone from the Department of Children and Families?

MR. GIDDINGS: This is Richard Giddings, Fuel and Utilities Director

MS. SOJOURNER: Good afternoon. This is Lily Sojourner, with the Office of Economic Opportunity.

MS. HARTE: Okay. Anyone on the line from DHVA? Department of Vermont Health Access? Vermont Department of Health?

MS TRUTOR: This is Emily Trutor, Deputy Director for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program.

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

MS. GOODRIDGE: I'm Charlotte Goodridge from the Business Office

MS. KAMP: I'm Sue Kamp from the Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention representing the Public Health Block Grant.

MS. STALHBERG: This is Lisa Stalhberg, Deputy Director for the Maternal Child Health representing the Title V Block Grant

MS. KELLEY: Karen Kelley, from the Business Office

MS. HARTE: Great. Anyone of from the Department of Corrections? And

MS. BERNARD: This is Jessica Bernard, Assistant Director of Quality management from the Department of Health. And we have a few others on as well.

MS. McSherry: I'm Cara McSherry I work in the business office of Mental Health.

MS. MORSE: this is Judy Morse. I work in the Business Office for Human Services Central Office.

MS. NIGGEL: This is Jillian Niggel. I work in the Business Office for the Department of Children and Families.

MS. HARTE: Anyone else from any other departments who hasn't spoken up?

MS. MATTISON: Heather Mattison Child Development Division Department of Children and Families

MS: BOLAND: This is Sarena Boland, from the Agency Human Services in the Business Office.

MR. DONAHEY: This is Rich Donahey from AHS Central Office Business Office.

MS: BAILEY: I'm Susan Bailey and I'm from AHS Central Office.

MS. GOULD: Jill Gould, from AHS Fiscal is also in attendance.

MS. HARTE: Oh, great Jill.

MS. CUMMINGS: This is Gabrielle Cummings from the DMH Business Office.

MS. HARTE: Alright so I'm thinking we have everyone at this point. So, I am going to go ahead and proceed. So, I have some notes, not notes but a script here to read.

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 and Rutland Herald on July 3rd, 2020. Burlington Free Press, Brattleboro Reformer, and Bennington Banner on July 6th, 2020. An electronic notice was also posted on the Public Libraries website. Additionally, community partners were notified via email of the public hearing.

Electronic summary documents, as well as full draft grant applications are available on the AHS internet. I should note that these block grants and the respective programs and amounts, are proposed and pending approval of the fiscal year 2021 budget contained in the Appropriations Act, Act 72. Until the FFY'2021 budget is enacted into law, we will submit our plans using the estimated allocations based on 2020 funding levels.

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: I would say we could leave this open 10-15 minutes. At that time, if we have no public calls and I think it would be safe to adjourn the meeting. Currently there is no one pending to be invited into the meeting, so I'll keep an eye on that over the next ten minutes.

Ten minutes of silence.

MS. BOLAND: I have not received any public calls or anyone else asking to join our meeting so I think at this time at this time we can have Alison close us out.

MS: HARTE: Okay. Great. Thank you Sarena. Okay so this concludes out Public Hearing. Thank you all for joining.

MS. BOLAND: Thank you all. Please feel free to e-mail any questions to us directly. Goodbye.