**Agenda**

**Task Force on the Federal Transition**

February 19, 2025

2:00 - 3:30PM via Zoom

**2:00pm – 2:05pm Taking Stock & Latest Developments**

Treasurer Pieciak, Co-Chair Minter

Treasurer: Grateful to be back together, to have Dr. Levine on the call. Overview of agenda, explanation of goals for time with Dr. Levine, time to take stock of potential task force actions, and time to look ahead at potential pending issues.

**2:05pm – 2:35pm Discussion with Dr. Levine, Commissioner, Department of Health**

Areas of focus with Federal transition; Impact of WHO withdrawal or other actions; Federal data-reporting; impacts on population health

Treasurer introduces Dr. Levine, who gives an overview of WHO, USAID, and HHS (CDC, NIH, CMS) events and implications for Vermonters and the Vermont health system. Focus on erosion of international efforts regarding disease tracking, vaccine development, data sharing, viral genotyping, pandemic preparedness, erosion of PEPFAR, and chronic disease efforts, as well as national data tracking and the implications for disease spread, immunization practice, and responsiveness. Evidence already indicates that poor communication facilitated increased spread of, for example, measels outbreak now underway in TX and OK. Travel bans + abrupt firings leave many with no Federal counterparts or POCs.

Task Force discussed implications for VDH – funding, personnel, risk. VDH is very reliant on Federal funding (Global Commitment (Medicaid) and other Federal funding). Dr. Levine focused on EIS, lab capacity, epidemiology, clinic, injury prevention, and immunization among other areas. VT data sharing is currently robust and deep.

Task Force (and public member) discuss implications for Veterans as healthcare services are curtailed.

Further discussion of task force around these implications. Focus on Medicaid risk and implications of that risk (~33% adult population on Medicaid, 50% youth population; implications of work requirements on immigrant families in particular; implication for health care providers like pediatricians in rural areas with tight margins already given a Medicaid-heavy patient panel…).

**2:35pm – 3:00pm** **Task Force Discussion - Open Topics**

Multiple open issues from various speakers this month:

* Disaster Recovery Reserve - formal support, next steps
* Office of New Americans update
* Funding Freeze-related updates
* Steel / Aluminum tariff impacts - what are people hearing (i.e., craft brewery, ag equipment, precision parts, maple syrup…?)

Task Force reviews past meetings and takes two actions:

* Endorses Disaster Recovery Reserve concept (given recurring natural disasters, uncertainty about future FEMA changes and response times).
* Endorses letter to Sen. Collamore on bipartisan S.56, study on the Office of New Americans concept (given significant workforce needs made more acute by recent immigration orders)

Task Force discusses the freeze of funds to organizations supporting immigrants and refugees. Considers implications. Task Force discusses new aluminum and steel tariffs. Sense of what industries most impacted downstream of these costs. Treasurer to connect with craft beer industry. Task force discusses other impacted sectors, possible actions.

**3:00pm – 3:20pm Looking Ahead & Updates from Task Force Members**

Continuing Resolution / possible government shutdown, Medicaid legislation, where to focus attention next

Task Force identifies Medicaid, CR/shutdown as issues for continued discussion. Invitation to Medicaid Director. Task Force discusses philanthropic engagement. Task Force discusses trans issues. Task Force discusses DEI orders and how this is impacting Federal contracts, non-profits. Emphasis of next webinar.

**3:20pm - 3:25pm Wrap Up & Next Steps Looking to March 6**

Consolidating Task Force Member comments;discussingpotential topics for consideration:

* Navigating Economic Uncertainty Webinar (postponed till post March 4)
* Next Task Force Meeting March 6

**3:25pm - 3:30pm Public Comment**

**3:30pm Adjourn**