

Federal Transition Task Force

January 29, 2025

Meeting Start: 2pm

In attendance:

- **Mike Pieciak**, *co-chair*, Vermont State Treasurer
- **Sue Minter**, *co-chair*, immediate past Executive Director, Capstone Community Action, and former VTrans Secretary, State Representative, and State Director of Recovery after Tropical Storm Irene
- **David Marvin**, Founder, Butternut Mountain Farm
- **Jill Martin Diaz**, Executive Director, Vermont Asylum Assistance Project
- **Shabnam Nolan**, Executive Director, King Street Center
- **Olivia Sweetnam**, CEO, Grace Cottage Hospital
- **Peter Gregory**, Executive Director, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
- **Brian Lowe**, Principal, Assembly Theory
- **Steve Wisloski**, PRAG & financial advisor to the Treasurer's Office
- **Sarah Waring**
- **Emily Byrne**, Deputy Fiscal Officer, JFO
- **Members of the Public**

2:00pm – 2:05pm Taking Stock & Latest Developments Treasurer Pieciak & Co-Chair Minter

The Treasurer outlined the recent confusion and apparent rescinding & then un-rescinding of the OMB Memo, noting uncertainty remains. Sue introduced Emily Byrne of JFO

2:05pm – 2:25pm Presentation and Q&A - Emily Byrne, Deputy Fiscal Officer, JFO How are Federal funds integrated into the State budget? Where is the risk of reduction or withholding of those funds concentrated?

Emily's presentation focused on where Federal funds are positioned within the State budget. These funds do not include direct Federal investments or transfers that do not connect with the State budget. Task Force discussion focused on the scope of that additional direct Federal investment, variable Medicaid practices by State and what Federal latitude to change existing practices might be, Federal funds in childcare subsidies, among other topics.

2:25pm – 3:00pm Update on Jan 22 Task Force Identified Projects Treasurer Pieciak, Co-Chair Minter update & Task Force Discussion

Immigration

- Review, discussion of February 6 Chamber - VBSR - Treasurer webinar on ICE engagement.
 - TF members noted the VT Bar Association has followed suit and set up a similar training.
- New Federal actions? Discussion, for example, of expansion of Federal agents with deportation authorities.

Disaster Recovery Reserve

- Reviewed and discussed the proposed Disaster Recovery Reserve. Brian will circulate to the group for comment by EOD Monday, Feb. 3

Tariffs

- No Federal action...yet; All keeping an eye on Feb 1 date. Treasurer relayed conversation at St. Albans event hosted by Sen. Welch + confirmed VBR event.

3:00pm - 3:15pm Additional Potential Priorities

Discussion included potential future topics like Head Start, the Continuing Resolution, engaging with the State DEI Office, engaging with AHS, gender affirming care and Federal hospital leverage, and climate / environment issues.

3:15pm - 3:25pm Next Steps Looking to February 5th

Potential topics for consideration:

- Office of New Americans
- Public Health data-sharing and regional coordination now scheduled for Feb 19

3:25pm - 3:30pm Public Comment

No public comment

3:30pm Adjourn