

## Minutes

### VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

September 20, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### Zoom Videoconference Meeting

**Committee Members Present:** Martha Heath (Chair), Dave Larsen, Caleb Elder

**Committee Members Absent:** Matthew Derr

**Other Members Present:** Dodie Mitchell, Chair, Ryan Dulude

**VSAC Staff Present:** Scott Giles, Marilyn Cargill, Patrick Leduc, Mike Stuart, Tom Little, Jodie Ducharme

**Others:** N/A

Chair Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. on the Zoom virtual meeting platform with all present able to hear one another throughout the meeting. With a quorum established, the Committee took up the first order of business.

#### Approval of Minutes

*Upon a motion made by Dave Larsen and seconded by Caleb Elder, the Committee Members voted to approve the Programs & Services Committee Minutes of May 24, 2021, as presented.*

#### Grant Policy – Ongoing Review

Marilyn Cargill reviewed the following policies and responded to member questions, noting that the last time they were reviewed and approved by the Board was in 2018:

- **Divorced/Separated Parents** – Marilyn reviewed the policy and noted there were no proposed changes.
- **Estimated Income** – Marilyn reviewed the policy and noted there were no proposed changes. Marilyn also highlighted that this policy has been especially important during the pandemic because, as an appeal, it allows us to use a family's estimated current year income if the financial information they reported on the FAFSA no longer reflects their current situation and provided grant funds are still available at the time of the appeal.

*Upon a motion made by Dave Larsen and seconded by Caleb Elder, the Committee Members voted to recommend that the full Board approve the Divorced/Separated Parents and Estimated Income policies, as presented.*

## **Work Plan Review**

Marilyn Cargill reviewed the previously distributed Work Plan, highlighting the meeting format and standard topics covered. Marilyn noted that each meeting will include the opportunity for a more detailed review of certain Operational topics. The Committee engaged in a conversation about the topics that they would like to see included in the more detailed review.

*Upon a motion made by Caleb Elder and seconded by Dave Larsen, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed FY22 Programs & Services Work Plan, as presented.*

## **Operations Updates**

Marilyn Cargill and Scott Giles briefed the Committee on program efforts since May 24, 2021, including updates on the following:

- VSAC staff and building during COVID-19
- Cyber Security
- Advantage Loans
  - Origination
  - Delinquency
  - Forbearance Use
- VHEIP/VT529
- Resource allocation between Departments
- Ongoing Brand Work
- Standing Reports

## **Federal Update**

Scott Giles provided updates on federal suspensions slated to end in January 2022 on Direct Loans and Defaulted FFELP Loans, the Department of Education's guidance on special mandatory assignment of defaulted FFELP loans, the first release of reconciliation, and bankruptcy.

## **Vermont Update –**

Marilyn Cargill provided an update on the following:

- Final Outcomes on State Funding for VSAC
  - 802 Opportunity
  - Green Mountain Grad
- VSAC supports Vermont borrowers reentering repayment
- Accountability and Affordability: Follow-up to Select Committee Report

## **Other Business**

There being no other business, the Committee adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marilyn Cargill, Assistant Secretary