

October 2020

Tim,

Thank you for your email and honesty regarding no longer being able to fulfill the Vermont Youth Project (VYP) community lead role. The community lead role is an important factor in readiness for full implementation of VYP, and we appreciate the enthusiasm and energy you brought to this role in Richmond. Thank you for making that effort.

With this second change in local leadership and the lack of involvement in the project since early spring, we are officially ending the pilot project in Richmond. Throughout year 1 and as we move into year 2, we have continued to see the pilot in Richmond not operate at the capacity of a full implementation VYP community. The challenges over the spring and summer of year 1 due to Covid-19 impacted every VYP community; however, since March the five other pilot communities have continued to move forward with:

- Holding Coalition meetings
- Organizing local community workshops
- Participating in regular check ins with VYP state lead
- Solidifying VYP year 2 plans as a coalition with the VYP state lead
- Creating survey implementation plans for the fall
- Implementing the youth survey in grades 7-12 at their participating schools in October
- Forming plans for youth councils
- Continuing to build awareness in the community about VYP
- Working on strategic planning as a coalition
- Designing community-building activities

Moving into year 2, VYP pilot communities are building off of year 1 indicators to further their work in positive youth development. However, in Richmond the limited collaboration with the VYP state team from the local

coalition and continued changes in the community lead role have resulted in the Richmond pilot falling behind and not being ready to move forward with year 2 implementation. At this point in the fall, there is not time to cover that ground, administer the survey in October, and continue to move the work forward with fidelity to this project.

Due to the concerns noted above, the Vermont Afterschool board, who is deeply invested in the Vermont Youth Project and following progress and developments closely, has elected to terminate the MOA and end pilot implementation in Richmond effective immediately. In order to ensure project fidelity for the state and the remainder of the pilot sites, we ask that the Richmond community no longer claim affiliation with this project and remove the project from all spaces including grants and social media pages. Should Richmond want to continue this work with Vermont Afterschool in the future, we encourage the community to reach out about capacity building. We wish you all the best in your other community projects and remain very supportive of your collective efforts to continue to make Richmond a positive place for children and youth.

Sincerely,

Robin Katrick

Robin Katrick
VYP State Lead

Holly Morehouse

Holly Morehouse
Executive Director

CC: Josh Arneson