



Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Taskforce Proposed 5/20/19

Building Bright Futures State Council seeks to improve system integration and coordination in order to achieve the best outcomes for children and families.

Background: Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council identified early childhood and family mental health as a priority to explore in 2019. The Council listened to early childhood leaders working in the field, parents and policy makers. They explored data that demonstrated an increase in utilization of services at mental health designated agencies in Vermont and also learned the acuity of needs by Vermont families with young children has increased in recent years.

As the Council explored this topic, it is clear there are diverse strategies in use across the state providing supports in homes, early care and learning programs, community settings such as parent child centers, public and private mental health providers.

The language we use to talk about services for children and families is also varied. We say early childhood and family health, we talk about how to build resilience, social-emotional competence, and family stability. Having different language and frameworks may work in our respective settings but it makes it hard as a state to create a common vision and integrated system of care.

Reflecting on this image from Zero to Three, we agreed Vermont needs to create aligned language and visual as an important step to our ability to build a coordinated system that supports children and families' mental health.



This task force will:

- Bring together people across disciplines on a state level to identify and affirm vision statements that speak to an integrated system of care. Use this vision statement to develop common language and a visual continuum that will lead early childhood and mental health partners;
- Identify existing forums that are doing similar alignment work related to ECFMH (though may not have the same early childhood frame), identify intersections and opportunities with these groups;
- review positive mental health frameworks in use across Vermont;
- identify policy recommendations to reach this shared vision.

Policy recommendations will inform BBF's *How Are Vermont's young Children and Families? Report* and the *Act 264 System of Care Report*. The group will develop a white paper and present to the State Advisory Council in Fall 2019.

Membership for Consideration

State Advisory Council Representative

Family Representatives

Department of Mental Health Representative

Department of Health Representative

Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Designated Agency Representative

Parent Child Center Representative

Head Start and Early Head Start Representative (Program Director or Mental Health Consultant)

Children's Integrated Services Representative (home visitor, early intervention, specialized child care administrator)

Early Care and Learning Provider

Public Education Representative

Building Bright Futures (convener)