



**Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council (BBF SAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2020**

SAC Members Present: Cheryle Wilcox, David Young, Amy Johnson, Emily Merrill, Chloe Leary, Aly Richards, Renee Kelly, Breena Holmes, Flor Diaz Smith, Christy Swenson

Zoom- Kate Rogers, Stacy Weinberger

Absent: Rep Jessica Brumsted, Kenneth Jones, Auburn Watersong, Melissa Reigel-Garrett, Julie Cadwallader Staub, Kim Keiser, Nicole Grenier

Community Partners/Guests: Eddie Gale, Matt Levin, Morgan Cole, Michelle Maitri-Mudita, Carol Lang-Godin

Zoom- Becky Millard

Staff present: Morgan Crossman, Beth Truzansky, Katie Mobbs, Julia Andrews, Amanda Biggs, Jay Austin, Linda Michniewicz, Steve Ames, Dora Levinson

Zoom- Robin Stromgren, Darla Senecal

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**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Cheryle Wilcox called the meeting to order at 12:15pm

**a. Welcome all in attendance, review agenda**

**2. How Are Vermont's Young Children and Families 2019 Report**

Explore the 2019 report by reviewing the Mental Health Spotlight with discussion in pairs, how can the report be a tool to highlight strengths and challenges impacting children and families in our state. Morgan reviewed Vermont Insights indicators and noted that these are all publicly accessible.

**3. BBF Performance Measures**

SAC members were asked to review draft performance measures using a Results-Based Accountability framework and give feedback. The (RBA) framework measures- How Much, How Well & Is Anybody Better Off?

Breena- Number of parents and families reached through BBF outreach events is important

Aly- Number of sectors represented is crucial, integrating ECAP a little more (can BBF embody the Action Plan a little more)

Stacy- Ongoing relationships vs a new connection, identifying who is not at the table and documenting that regionally and at the state level

#### **4. SAC General Business and Organization**

##### **a. SAC membership**

The BBF Executive Committee proposed to recommend that the Governor appoint the following at-large members to fill current vacancies on the council, beginning January 27, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021:

- Flor Diaz Smith, Vermont School Boards Association; Aly Richards made a motion to accept, with a second from Chloe Leary. All members voted in favor of approving.
- Christy Swenson, Capstone Head Start; Renee Kelly made a motion to accept, with a second by Amy Johnson. All members voted in favor of approving.

##### **b. Consent Agenda**

The board passed the minutes from the November 25, 2019 State Council Meeting. Aly Richards made a motion to accept, with a second by Chloe Leary. All members voted in favor of approving. Renee Kelly abstained from the vote.

##### **c. Universal Pre-K Report**

BBF Regional Coordinators hosted forums in all regions and Morgan gave testimony to the House Education Committee on January 16<sup>th</sup>. A full report is anticipated mid February paired with a webinar.

##### **d. Preschool Development Grant**

The State of Vermont applied for and was awarded a Federal Preschool Development Planning Grant in December 2018, the grant will allow Vermont to build on its strengths and accomplishments through six project activities:

1. Needs Assessment
2. Updating Vermont's birth-age five strategic plan
3. Maximizing Parental Knowledge and Choice
4. Sharing Best Practices
5. Improving Overall Quality
6. Evaluation Plan

The State of Vermont subsequently took part in a competitive application process for a follow-up Federal Preschool Development Implementation Grant. Of the 46 states who received a Planning Grant, only 23 states received an Implementation Grant, the State of Vermont was not one of them. We will continue work throughout this year on the development grant and work with partners statewide to develop funding mechanisms.

##### **e. BBF Sustainability Team**

Not receiving the Preschool Development renewal grant has significant impact to BBF and other statewide partners. A sustainability team will be developed in the near future, State Advisory Council members will be asked to serve on or support this team. If you would like to volunteer to be on the sustainability team, please reach out to Morgan.

#### **5. Issue Priority Spotlight: Children's Integrated Services (CIS)**

Children's Integrated Services (CIS) is a key piece to the system of care supporting children and families. Regional Councils continue to express concerns about the fortitude of their CIS systems, this spotlight provides an opportunity for SAC members to learn about CIS and concerns from regional partners.

Panel included: Amanda Biggs, Chittenden Regional Coordinator Building Bright Futures  
Michelle Maitri-Mudita, CIS Coordinator & EL Director Orleans/Northern Essex  
Carol Lang-Godin, CIS Coordinator Lamoille Family Center  
Morgan Cole, Director of CIS

SAC members were asked to discuss this topic and identify one change to help move CIS to get it working at its best to serve families and children. Strategies included:

- Articulate the financial need based on the recent Burns Survey. The financial gap between current funding and need is \$2.4M

- Articulate the unmet need to influence greater financial investment in the CIS system.
- Ensure family voice and stories around the need and impact of CIS. Work needs to be done around parent engagement, kids will be on a wait list we need to message what the downfall of that will be, those stories are going to move administration
- Engage all of our partners to build a strong case in particular, the health sector.
- Explore how CIS is part of the system supporting children and families. There are other programs offering mental health, home visiting though it is the only system providing early intervention.

#### **6. BBF State Advisory Council Annual Policy & Systems Prioritization**

The SAC continues the practice to annually identify priorities, review how this process ran over the last year and how to strengthen it. Consider recommendation to make this a 2-year cycle and continue working on workforce and mental health as the two SAC priorities for 2020. Majority of the members feel since we are advisory to the governor, this would align with budget timeline, allowing the SAC to link key priorities to key conversations to make an impact.

#### **7. Adjourn**

3:00pm meeting adjourned by Cheryle Wilcox

**Next Meeting- Monday February 24th, 2020 | 12:00-3:00pm**  
**Vermont Insurance Agents Association, Suite 100, 600 Blair Park, Williston VT**  
**Room 11**  
**Montpelier, VT**