



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

SAC Members Present: Cheryle Wilcox, Emily Merrill, Chloe Leary, Renee Kelly, Ken Jones, Representative Jessica Brumsted, Auburn Watersong, Steven Berbeco, Kate Rogers, Flor Diaz Smith, Nicole Grenier, Christy Swenson, Janet Kilburn (standing in for Breena Holmes), Janet McLaughlin (standing in for Aly Richards)

Absent: Kim Keiser, Breena Holmes, Amy Johnson, Julie Cadwallader Staub

Community Partners/Guests:

Eddie Gale with the A. D. Henderson Foundation

Tracy Collier Program Improvement Manager for CIS.

Becky Millard, Northern Lights at CCV

Jen Horwitz, Policy & Research Director, Let's Grow Kids

Amy Brooks, Early Care and Education Association (ECEA) of the Upper Valley region

Michelle Parson, ABC & LOL Child Care and Preschool director

Rex Butt, LGK Field Manager and Family Organizer

Eli Hawgood, PDG Grant Manager-CDD

Gretchen Elias from Good Beginnings of Central Vermont

Hilary Watson, Children's Integrated Services

Matt Levin, Exec Dir VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance

Charlie Gliserman, Public Engagement Director, VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance.

Karen Bielawski-Branch, CIS Home Visiting Program Administrator and Co-chair of BBF Early Childhood Wellness Committee

Adrianna Tomasi MCH Coordinator VT Department of Health

Jen Fortman, BBF Co-Chair for families & communities committee

Margaret Atkinson, Winston Prouty Center

Cheryl Mitchell from Early Care and Learning Partnership

Christel Michaud, CDD Director of Child Care Licensing and Co-Chair of BBF Early Learning and Development Committee

Courtney McKaig, Family Wellness, Mt Ascutney Hospital & Health

Staff present: Morgan Crossman, Beth Truzansky, Julia Andrews, Jay Austin, Amanda Biggs, Robin Stromgren, Dora Levinson, Liz Fleury, Anne Latulippe, Katie Mobbs, Ellen Taetzsch, Darla Senecal

Welcome & Introductions

Welcome all in attendance, review agenda

1. SAC General Business

- a. **Consent Agenda**- The board passed the minutes from the June 22, 2020 State Council Meeting. Cheryle Wilcox made a motion to accept, with a second by Steven Berbeco. Majority of members voted in favor of approving, Ken Jones abstains from the vote.

This July meeting serves as both the State Advisory Council meeting and the Early Childhood Policy Development Session which typically occurs at the Vermont State House and marks the start of a new annual ECAP Implementation Cycle and the launch of the policy recommendation process. Due to COVID we made changes to our usual process.

2. Key Challenges Facing Vermont Children and Families

- Presentation of key challenges/barriers identified from the Needs Assessment- BBF was tasked to conduct a needs assessment under the Preschool Development Grant in addition to our responsibilities under Act 104 which requires a periodic needs assessment. This needs assessment survey had 160 stakeholders from all sectors participate in focus groups or an online survey, BBF will present full findings of the survey at the August 24th SAC meeting.
- Review of key issues identified by BBF Regional Councils- Morgan reviewed the BBF Regional Priorities which were prepared for the July 2019 ECAP Summit and priorities that were updated during the COVID-19 Pandemic in April 2020

3. Policy Work Sessions in Small Groups

1. COVID impacts on family economic stability and mental health
2. Chronic inequities and racism as a public health crisis
3. Family voice to rebuild a stronger system
4. Childcare capacity and workforce development
5. Evolve early childhood data system to address gaps

4. Reflection and Discussion on Strategy

Council members, early childhood experts, agency partners and committee leaders came back together and reviewed highlights from the small group discussions. These small group discussions were documented and from them, policy recommendations have been drafted

5. Next Steps

The work done in small groups today, led by Early Childhood Action Plan leaders, will be brought back to ECAP committees for final development and presented to the full State Advisory Council at the September 28th meeting.

6. Adjourn

3:00pm meeting adjourned

**Next Meeting- Monday August 24th, 2020 | 1:30-3:00pm
Via Zoom**