



**BBF Child Outcomes Accountability Team Notes**

**April 22, 2021 | 9:00-10:30 am**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85664773532>

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*The BBF Child Outcomes Accountability Team works to improve integration and coordination of early childhood public and private partners committed to the health and well-being of children and their families. The group will inform strategies and monitor progress to ensure that children are healthy, thriving and developmentally on track from the prenatal period to third grade by promoting and monitoring outcomes in the following domains: physical health, development and educational outcomes, mental health outcomes, and basic needs outcomes. Goal 1 also promotes the importance of prevention and early identification across the same domains.*

**Desired Outcomes**

- Explore how to improve child outcomes by providing nutritious food through ECE programs
- Review recent data, trends and gaps related to food security
- Understand what services exist, where are the gaps and barriers to expanding food programs at ECE
- Improve understanding and connections across health, education and agriculture sectors
- Discussion of funding and policy mechanisms to address identified gaps and provide food in ECE programs

Attendees: Cynthia Greene/VT FEED, Lauren Smith/VDH, Janet Kilburn/VDH, Bev Boguet/LGK, Sheila Durnaleau/CDD, Pam McCarthy/VT Family Network, Amy Coolbeth/Early Head Start Lamoille County, Linda Farr/Capstone Community Action Head Start, Michele Johnson/AOE, Becca Webbb/WVSA Act 166 Coordinator, Amy Johnson/NCSS and PCC Network, Renee Kelly/VT Head Start Collaboration Office/CDD, Morgan Crossman/BBF, Keely Agen/Hunger Free Vermont, Jen Fortman/Parent, Elizabeth Gilman/HMG 211, Cheryle Wilcox/Dept of Mental Health, Amanda Biggs/BBF, Beth Truzansky/BBF

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 - 9:15	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p><b>Record</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welcome to the Child Outcomes Accountability Team. The BBF Child Outcomes Accountability Team works to improve integration and coordination of early childhood public and private partners committed to the health and well-being of</li> </ul>

	<p>children and their families. The group will inform strategies and monitor progress to ensure that children are healthy, thriving and developmentally on track from the prenatal period to third grade by promoting and monitoring outcomes in the following domains: physical health, development and educational outcomes, mental health outcomes, and basic needs outcomes. Goal 1 also promotes the importance of prevention and early identification across the same domains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting was opened by Beth Truzansky, Deputy Director for Building Bright Futures and organized jointly with Cynthia Greene from Vermont FEED's Farm to Early Childhood Coalition.</li> <li>● Participants made introductions in the chat bar</li> <li>● The meeting's desired outcomes are to improve child outcomes by providing nutritious food through ECE programs. We will review recent data, data trends and data gaps related to food security. Through the presentation and discussion, we hope you will gain a better understanding of the work of the Farm to Early Childhood coalition. Also what services exist, as well as a better understanding and connections across health, education and agriculture sectors. Following the presentation, we will have a discussion exploring possible funding and policy mechanisms to address the identified gaps and provide food in ECE programs.</li> </ul>
<p>9:15 - 9:40</p>	<p>Improving child outcomes by providing nutritious food through ECE programs- Presentation by partners involved in the Farm to Early Childhood Coalition to understand strategies to bring healthy food to children where they are most of the day: in ECE programs. Explore data and data gaps to understand opportunities, gaps and barriers to expanding food programs at ECE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review of prior COAT discussions on universal screening and social determinants of health</li> <li>● Food insecurity in Vermont - Bev Boget talked about a pilot process for universal hunger vital signs screening, use of Help Me Grow to connect families with services they need. Do we know if they got what they needed? (slide 7)</li> <li>● Data walk-Keely Agan from Hunger Free Vermont presented current data on food insecurity in Vermont (slide 8). SNAP participation has increased though WIC participation has not. A data gap is the number of ECE programs incorporating nutritious food in their programs. CACFP (Child Adult Care Food Program) participation is not a sufficient number to use as it's not universally accessible to EC programs.</li> <li>● Another data gap is that food insecurity screenings link back to individually based food security resources (for families or individuals - which is great and helpful for families) but does not link back to EC system where children spend a lot of time and could gain greater access to nutritious foods if supports were in place for EC programs to offer nutritious food</li> <li>● Farm to Early Childhood is an integrated approach which leverages educational practices and food purchasing at ECE sites to enrich the connections children,</li> </ul>

	<p>families and staff have with fresh, nutritious foods; local food producers and food systems and; food and nutritious education. (slide 9-10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Keely shared about existing initiatives (slide 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Farm to Early Childhood Coalition: next meeting is May 10, all are welcome (contact Cynthia for details)</li> <li>○ Will do a study of cost of providing meals in EC settings: June start up</li> <li>○ QRIS alignment-integrating food into EC settings as a quality component and part of a BUILD community of practice.</li> <li>○ VAAFMT FTEC grants, VT FEED FTEC professional development and year long coaching mentoring programs for EC providers</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Reviewed challenges and opportunities- concern there remains food insecurity particularly for children under age five yet most food security initiatives are focused on individual families, not EC settings - the Farm to Early Childhood Coalition seeks to improve nutritious food access through EC settings</li> </ul>
<p>9:40 - 10:20</p>	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>We know there are spaces where children gather, and through screening we are identifying families who are food insecure. Given this opportunity, how do we design a solution and identify funding and policy mechanisms to provide food in ECE programs?</p> <p>Clarifying questions/Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Slide 8: 1200 EC programs references # of programs in VT system overall, not the number historically enrolled in CACFP</li> <li>● # of EC settings providing meals/snacks (does this discern if programs are providing the food)</li> <li>● I think there might also be an opportunity to connect with the Families &amp; Communities Committee to ensure that parents/caregivers are aware of this work, the food benefits that are available to them, and can share their own thoughts/perspectives/needs related to nutrition for their kiddos. Jen responded (co-chair of F&amp;C committee).</li> <li>● This topic came up in the Let's Talk ECE page and there was a variety of questions that came up in that posting-- one of the pieces I think about is how do we collectively market this?</li> </ul> <p>Brainstorm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CACFP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ participation barriers: food security and food program staff visiting EC settings sometimes are not welcoming,</li> <li>○ I think that if there was support to have a cook come in to make the meals and record/paperwork and be paid a bit more through CACFP there may be more interest. Also funding and collaboration with Meals on Wheels?</li> <li>○ @Amy Coolbeth - I love the idea of collaborating with Meals on Wheels - a huge opportunity!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Data gaps-Cost of feeding kids study (findings will hopefully will be wrapped into LGK future cost of care study)
  - Another thought in relation to the study re: cost of CACFP/providing meals - which I am really excited about! - it'd be great to look at the true cost your study uncovers in relation to the federal reimbursement rate - I know that currently in Pandemic EBT for childcare they're reimbursing \$6.82/day for breakfast, lunch, and snack - which is ridiculous - we know it costs more. It'd be great to have a VT data point to advocate for additional funding, both federal and state.
- How best to support programs to provide food as part of QRIS/quality rating.
  - Head Start has CACFP as a program performance standard, use of Health Managers. Head Start resources re: nutrition: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/nutrition>
- Culturally appropriate foods-
  - I'm curious how the recent data from Pablo Bose's presentation about the lack of culturally appropriate foods for New American children interfaces with future planning of FTEC and CACFP? ( FTEC Coalition and CDD are investigating training options)
  - CACFP- sometimes evaluates based on how appealing food looks which may not carry an inclusive/culturally preferred frame
- Participation in WIC-drops around the time children turn 24 months, why?
  - Well baby check ups start be decrease in frequency at this time
  - WIC, my clients are not happy with the card instead of the food drop off process. The stores do not always have the items in the system correctly and it causes some stigmatism for them
- Use of hunger vital signs screening tool - Are there ways to better connect positive food security screening with ECE access to resources?
  - universally to understand what's happening with families and how to address these needs individually
  - Asking early educators to include food insecurity screening in family enrollment and/or routine data collection and seeing the needs of their families, I hope will drive the urgency to participate in CACFP
- Caution about creating the perfect system, ideally create a flexible system of nutritious culturally preferred food access supports for the EC system which can be utilized in a variety of fashions to best support the programs
- Are there opportunities to make connections between farmers and EC programs in communities? Yes, this is one of three primary foci of FTEC
- How to reach kinship caregivers who may have a child only grant from ESD but still struggle. Great discussion, thanks everyone!
- years ago there was funding for providers to receive CSA foods and I absolutely loved that when I had my childcare - VAAFAM just awarded 32 CSA grants to EC programs in March 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Free meals until 2022- waivers extended due to the pandemic for school are children (no longer covers all under age 18 so ages 5 and younger are left out) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Who schools serve vary across the state, work to make it more inclusive</li> <li>○ Area of eligibility waived but only for children enrolled in the school (not everyone 18 and under)</li> <li>○ CACFP flexibility</li> <li>○ Schools delivering food to EC programs (transportation is a barrier in rural areas)</li> <li>○ Milton example of preparing and delivering food</li> <li>○ Health of school meals - subjective term - prefer term nutritious</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Infrastructure needed - kitchens/refrigeration etc</li> </ul> <p>Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Amy: During this meeting, I got 10 CACFP emails about provider challenges</li> <li>● Jen: Enjoyed this meeting. The Families and Communities committee is looking at issues esp for people in rural areas. Excited to bring this back to the committee</li> <li>● Cheryle: These issues weren't on the top of my radar, thank you. I will bring this back to a equity/health disparity group I attend to invite further feedback on the nutritious culturally appropriate foods</li> </ul>
10:20 - 10:30	<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <p>Just making sure folks know about Vermont After School's Summer Matters for All RFP 2021-  <a href="https://www.cognitofirms.com/VermontAfterschool/SummerMattersForAllRFP2021">https://www.cognitofirms.com/VermontAfterschool/SummerMattersForAllRFP2021</a></p> <p>Invitation to Farm To Early Childhood meeting on May 10th, 9:30 - 11:00 am via zoom contact Cynthia Greene <a href="mailto:cgreene@shelburnefarms.org">cgreene@shelburnefarms.org</a> if you would like the link</p>
10:30	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>

### Quick Links

[March 25 Recording of COAT meeting](#)

[About the Child Outcomes Accountability Team](#) and archived meeting materials

[2020 Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan](#)

### Upcoming Meeting Dates and Topics

May: Equitable Access to Services for CSHN, Use of ASQ by UPK programs, Review of COAT work in first 6 months and policy recommendation process

June: no meeting, small group work on policy recommendations

July 22: Meeting rescheduled to attend VECAP Summit on July 26, 1:00-3:00pm

August 26: Equitable Access to Services for CSHN (part 2)

Note: all meetings will be held on Zoom