



About the BBF Regional Councils

Vision of the BBF Regional Council Network

We envision an early childhood system where partners work together with shared vision, shared action and shared accountability; where regional tables are set for communities to problem solve, coordinate, and take action; where data drives decision making; and sensible state policy is informed by the wisdom of communities.

BBF brings the Early Childhood community in Vermont together to foster collaboration, share best practices, solicit input, and develop system efficiencies on complex social and systemic problems to ensure all children and families have access to high quality opportunities. We engage families as key partners to build a seamless system experienced by families from prenatal through age eight and beyond. Regional Councils convene early childhood partners to identify the needs and challenges of children, families, educators and providers on the ground. Key issues addressed in 2021 included:

- Child and family mental health
- Family safety, stability and access to basic needs
- Responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Building child, family and community resilience
- Building accessible, equitable and seamless system of services for children prenatal-age eight
- Quality, capacity of childcare and early childhood services
- Supporting early childhood workforce development

BBF Regional Councils serve as an essential part of the BBF statewide network infrastructure including the State Advisory Council (SAC) on Early Childhood and the seven Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP) committees; working together to support Early Childhood stakeholders across the state. BBF Regional Councils regularly participate in efforts to gather information from the broader community to inform policy and practice both at the regional and state level.

Regional Council Charge

The Regional Council convenes families and professionals invested in the well-being of children and families. The council is guided by priorities outlined in a Regional and Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP) based on community needs and gaps. The council also advises the BBF State Advisory Council (SAC) on opportunities to strengthen both local and statewide systems of care, health, and education. BBF's team of Regional Managers to support the

network of 12 regional Councils Each Regional Early Childhood Council, is supported by a BBF Regional Council Coordinator,

Council Membership

The council is open to anyone who is invested in the well-being of children and families. We seek representation from the following sectors: health, mental health, early care and education, primary education, home visiting, parents/caregivers, and direct service providers, etc, who are committed to participate in respectful, safe and non-judgmental relationships to work together in support of positive outcomes for young children and families in our community. There are no terms for Council membership.

Council Meetings

With the regional and state action plans as our guides, we identify and invite discussion about key projects and initiatives to support and collaborate on in efforts to increase impact, reduce duplication, and break down silos. Regional council meetings gather 6-8 times a year to share ideas and support for programs and families, and create opportunities to learn what our counterparts are doing, recognizing that we can better meet the diverse needs of all children and families when we work together. Meetings will be held largely using Zoom as a virtual format, with select in person meetings to further build relationships among regional partners.

[Click here to find the regional council in your region](#)

Regional Council Leadership Team (formerly called Steering Committees)

Each Regional Council Leadership Team maintains the direction for our agile early childhood focused regional council and teams to deliver and support key initiatives through prioritization of action plan strategies that align with community projects, grants, and cross organizational coordination of efforts. The roles of Leadership Teams include:

- Planning Regional Council meetings strategically
- Co-facilitating council meetings
- Identifying, exploring gaps and opportunities in the region for discussion at the Council meetings
- Assists Regional Manager in tracking and managing strategies, grant budgets and deliverables
- Participate in the BBF multi-tiered infrastructure to elevate regional voices to the state level –by attending State Advisory Council and Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP) meetings as needed
- Terms are 2 years – staggered to maintain vision and institutional knowledge

Membership-Existing leadership team members solicit applications on an annual basis and will review and vote on incoming applicants as a team.

Primary Role of Regional Manager

BBF has a team of 4 full-time Regional Managers (formerly called Regional Coordinators) to support the network of 12 Regional Councils and serve as an ambassador for the mission, vision, and work of the BBF network infrastructure. Their time is dedicated to the following key activities.

- Regional Managers serve as an ambassador for the mission, vision, and work of the BBF network infrastructure. They promote the importance of early childhood and connect people and resources
- Serve as the liaison between regional and state teams to communicate regional priorities, gaps and needs experienced by children, families and partners
- Manage BBF Regional Council operations for 2-4 regions. Engaging with regional partners and Council Leadership Teams to identify priority issues, build agendas, manage communications
- Coordinate with affiliated sub-committees/special initiatives
- Administrative and project management to meet grant deliverables (ie: outreach, funding for projects, data collection, reporting, etc.)

Building Bright Futures Staff	
BBF State Policy & Data Team	BBF Regional Team Contact Information
Morgan Crossman-Executive Director mcrossman@buildingbrightfutures.org	Amanda Biggs (until 7/15/21) Northwest Regional Manager serving Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle regions abiggs@@buildingbrightfutures.org
Beth Truzansky-Deputy Director btruzansky@buildingbrightfutures.org	Linda Michniewicz- Northeast Kingdom Regional Manager serving Orleans, Northern Essex, Caledonia and Southern Essex and Lamoille regions lmichniewicz@buildingbrightfutures.org
Dora Levinson-Research, Data and Evaluation Director dlevinson@buildingbrightfutures.org	Darla Senecal- Southwest Regional Manager serving Addison, Rutland and Bennington regions dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org
To be hired - Program and Policy Director	Ellen Taetzsch- Southeast Regional Manager serving Central, Southeast Vermont, Northern Windsor, Orange and Springfield area regions etaetzsch@buildingbrightfutures.org
Administration team	
Katie Mobbs, Office Manager kmobbs@buildingbrightfutures.org Jay Austin, Finance Manager jaustin@buildingbrightfutures.org	

Key Roles and Responsibilities of the Regional Council Network

Convene

- Regional Councils serve as the go-to resource for the early childhood system to be a connector among partners and help with system navigation
- Improve the quality of services by facilitating a sharing of expertise, best practices and resources
- Convene high quality, inclusive and effective council meetings that promote information sharing and bridge building

Empower

- Elevate regional and family voice and priorities to inform policy and practice (Education, health, child development, child care, nutrition, etc.)
- Provide (or request) additional context for policy and practice changes
- Engage parents and caregivers to participate in regional council and other committees to inform decision making.

Monitor

- Hold a shared vision that informs action and accountability through both a Regional Action Plan and the state's Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan
- Monitor progress toward action plan priorities and identify where continued attention, resources are needed
- Utilize data and gather information to inform priority setting, actions and investments
- Identify gaps and needs experienced by children, families and partners in the region and monitor response

Respond

- Identify and implement strategies to respond to needs and align regional resources
- Support early childhood emergency response (eg: through the COVID-19 pandemic, and recovery, reversioning, and rebuilding phases)
- Filling gaps, and building capacity in regions, to respond to regional needs and execute regional action plan priorities

Advise

- Each activity above is used by the BBF Network across all layers of the infrastructure to serve in our role as the primary advisor to the Governor and Legislature on the well-being of children and families in Vermont.
- Regional Councils are part of BBF's multi-tiered infrastructure (12 regional councils, the State Advisory Council (SAC), and 7 committees) that move The Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP) forward. BBF informs this infrastructure by identifying and presenting the most up-to-date high-quality data. The regional and statewide infrastructure allows BBF to have a presence in every corner of the state and in all communities. This network is utilized for the communication and escalation of barriers, and challenges and recommendations from both regions and from the State Advisory Council to policy makers. As decisions are made, the BBF infrastructure facilitates changes to the Early Childhood system to improve the lives of children and families across the state.