

News for and from the Field:

BBF Regional Council Highlights

Harnessing the power of Vermont communities to impact child and family well-being

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Diaper Bank Launched
- SEVT holds Workforce Summit
- Early MTSS Announces Pilot Sites

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SPRINGFIELD AREA LAUNCHES FIRST DIAPER BANK IN VERMONT!

The **Springfield Area Building Bright Futures Regional Council**, in concert with Parks Place Community Resource Center, Youth Services of Windham County, Windham Northeast SU, Our Place, SEVCA, and the United Way of Windham County, launched the **first ever Diaper Bank in Vermont** on November 10th in Bellows Falls!

Community members were asked to fill a

dump truck with unused diapers or wipes to help address the "diaper divide".

Per the White House initiative on the diaper gap in America, the "lowest-income quintile of families with infants pay 14 percent of their income for diapers alone – an average of \$936 for diapers per child each year, while many higher income families pay less than half that amount."

Conversations about the diaper bank started with the Just Us Moms Program, a group of young mothers, in Bellows Falls earlier this year. Co-facilitated by **Ellen Taetzsch**, **BBF's Springfield Area Regional Coordinator**, this group led the charge with their "Time for a Change" slogan. Everyone is eligible to donate or access the diaper bank.

For more info, call **Ellen Taetzsch**, 802.591.2004.



**MAKING IT WORK IN WINDHAM:
EARLY CHILDHOOD & WORKFORCE SUMMIT**

On November 15, The **Southeast Vermont BBF Regional Council**, with the Brattleboro Area, Great Falls Regional and Deerfield Valley Chambers of Commerce, VT Business Roundtable, VT Businesses for Social Responsibility, United Way of Windham County, LGK, Chroma Technology Corp, VABIR, IPG Employee Benefits Specialists, & Twombly Wealth Management, held a workforce summit.

The gathering examined what it takes for families to live and work in Windham County and how a family-centered economy could be supported through the creation of family-friendly workplace policies.

The keynote speaker was **Steve Voigt**, Executive Director, ReThink Health: UCRV and former CEO of King Arthur Flour and past Chair of VT Business Roundtable.

Other featured speakers were **State Senator Becca Balint**, **Angela Earle-Gray**, (Chroma Technology), **Carrie Simmons** (New Ground Creative), **David Hiler** (Whetstone Station), **Heather Sullivan** (Mount Snow), and **Brandie Starr** (Brattleboro Savings & Loan).

Contact **Chad Simmons**, Southeast VT BBF Regional Coordinator, 802.451.9345 for more information.



"Early MTSS guides early childcare sites in evidence-based practices that support the social & emotional development of all children"
-Maureen Sullivan

EARLY MTSS SELECTS FOUR PILOT SITES IN BBF REGIONS

The Vermont Agency of Education announced the selection of four BBF regions to participate in the Early Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (Early MTSS) systems pilots.

The **Addison, Franklin & Grand Isle, Orleans & Northern Essex**, and the **Springfield Area** Regional Coordinators, with

members of their Building Bright Futures Councils, will be convening leadership teams to support the implementation of the Early MTSS Pyramid Model, designed to promote social emotional learning evidence-based practices in schools and child care settings.

Maureen Sullivan, the Early MTSS Coordinator, along

with **Rob Corso**, the Executive Director of the Pyramid Model Consortium, will be meeting with these leadership teams on December 5 & 6.

For more information about BBF's participation in this exciting effort, contact **Sarah Squirrel** at 802.876.5010 or **Debra McLaughlin** at 802.254.9253.

BBF LAUNCHES JOB SHARING PILOT IN FOUR REGIONS

As part of an effort to develop a sustainable and stable infrastructure for BBF after the ELC-RTT funding ends, it is piloting an approach to share Regional Coordinators in more than one region. With the departures of **Peg Bolgioni**, in Rutland and **Becky**

Raymond, in Central Vermont, to pursue their dream jobs, a pathway emerged to test out novel approaches to support the work of the Regional Councils in those regions.

As of November 4, **Steve Ames**, the Lamoille Valley Regional Coordinator, will

also staff the Central Vermont BBF Regional Council. As of January 1, **Dana Anderson**, the Regional Coordinator for Addison, will also staff the Rutland BBF Regional Council.

All four Regional Councils are in support of this exciting effort!



RUTLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL'S FOCUS ON OPIOID / SUBSTANCE USE IN REGION

At the November 15 BBF Rutland Regional Council meeting, members heard a thoughtful and informative presentation about opioid and other substance use in the Rutland region. **Abigail Crocker**, Research Associate Professor, Mathematics and Statistics, UVM; **Kathleen Paterson**, Senior Consulting Director of BBF's Vermont Insights; and **Jessica Clark-Keeler**, Clinical Social Worker for Rutland Regional Medical Center shared their data and insights to help Regional

Council members better understand the impact in the region.



Abby Crocker, Rutland BBF Regional Council Mtg. (Photo: Debra McLaughlin)

This important topic will be revisited at the BBF Rutland Regional Council **December 20 meeting**, held from 6 PM to 8 PM, at BROC, 45 Union Street, Rutland.

This topic was one of several identified as pressing during the Regional Action Planning process, conducted last year.

Recommendations and other actions will be forthcoming after December's meeting.

BENNINGTON'S WORK ON TRAUMA

As part of the Bennington BBF Regional Council's effort to become a trauma-informed and trauma sensitive region, it held a discussion about suspension and expulsion at its November 9 Regional Council meeting.

Facilitated by **Robin Stromgren**, Bennington's Regional Coordinator,

Council members had the opportunity to hear from Dr. **Kate Abbott**, from the SVSU and a panel of CIS Intake and Referral Specialists.

Key recommendations included: 1) Emergency "on the spot" behavioral consultations when needed; 2) community-based trainings, events or meetings to raise

awareness and provide support; 3) additional trainings for all providers in trauma based care and supporting behaviors; 4) assess capacity for applying for regional partnership Grant HS2017 ACF CU 1229; 5) increase the well-being of children affected by substance abuse; 6) therapeutic childcare; & 7) increase the number of EEC programs.



For more information contact Robin Stromgren at 802.447.2887.

OTHER BBF REGIONAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

A few other BBF Regional Council highlights to share:

- **Chittenden**—working with Milton, a Promise Community 2nd Cohort Site and continuing their focus on equity in the region and state-wide.
- **Lamoille Valley**—currently bringing their legislative team up to speed on early childhood challenges in their region.
- **Caledonia/Southern Essex**—selected as a HMG Pilot Site along with **Bennington, Lamoille Valley and Orleans/Northern Essex**.
- **Northern Windsor/Orange**—working on a number of models to

better coordinate transportation in the region.

Future newsletters will provide additional information about these exciting efforts!





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Harnessing the power of Vermont communities to impact child and family well-being

Building Bright Futures, a non-profit 501 3(c) organization, with a State Advisory Council and 12 Regional Councils, serves as the backbone organization to Vermont's early childhood system. It convenes and supports cross sector public-private collaboration and systems integration to promote a unified sustainable system of early care, health and education for young children and their families.

For more information visit us at:
www.buildingbrightfutures.org or
www.facebook.com/BuildingBrightFuturesSAC

BE A BFF FOR BBF!

BBF LAUNCHES INAUGURAL #GIVINGTUESDAY EFFORT

BBF is one of several Vermont non-profit organizations participating in #GivingTuesday. This is BBF's first foray in this important event!

Occurring this year on **November 29**, #GivingTuesday is held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday to kick-off the holiday giving season and inspire people to collaborate in improving their local communities and to give back in impactful ways to the charities and causes they support.

This year, Building Bright Futures is using this opportunity to raise money for the **Vermont Parent**

Child Center Network, through the individual on-line giving site Give-Gab [www.givegab.com/nonprofits/building-bright-futures] to buttress their crucial efforts to support families through the provision of gas cards, emergency food or utility vouchers, books, diapers, laundry vouchers and more.

Each Regional Council has their own #GivingTuesday campaign where individuals can contribute a donation of any size online.

Using the tag line, "**Be a BFF for BBF**", each Regional Council has a goal of \$500 to raise with a state-wide total of \$6,000.

For more information on where to give in your region, visit: www.givegab.com/nonprofits/building-bright-futures.

For more information about #GivingTuesday, visit: www.givingtuesday.org.

Thank you for spreading the word and for your support of BBF and the Vermont Parent Child Center Network!

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

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