



Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council (BBF SAC)
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2017 12:00-3:00
600 Blair Park
Williston, VT 05495

Present: Betsy Rathbun-Gunn, Eddie Gale, Reeva Murphy, Ben Allen, Charlie Biss, Aly Richards, Kim Coe, Julie Cadwallader Staub, David Young, Breena Holmes, Chloe Learey, Stacy Weinberger, Kate Rogers, Kim Keiser, Martha Maksym, Nicole Grenier

Absent: Maleka Clarke, Kristin Mason, Kevin Mullin, Betsy Rathbun-Gunn, Kenneth Jones

By Phone: Ellen Taetzsch, Robin Stromgren, Kathleen Paterson, Martha Braithwaite, Ethan Latour

Community Partners/Guests: Matt Levin, Kate Abbott, Sue Ryan, Laura Bernard, Becky Gonyea, Patty Smith, Donna Bailey, Lisa Guerro, Carolyn Wesley

Staff present: Sarah Squirrel, Katie Mobbs, , Emily MacKenzie, Nick Adams, Dana Anderson

Welcome, Introductions & Other Business

Sarah Squirrel called the meeting to order at 12:15pm and welcomed all in attendance.

Consent Agenda

The Board passed the minutes from January 23, 2017; Kim Keiser made a motion to accept with a second by David Young.

<http://cdn.buildingbrightfutures.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/1b.BBF-state-council-meeting-notes-1-23-17.pdf>

Committee and Task Force Report Out

Nominating Committee

As Chair of the Nominating Committee Reeva Murphy presented the immediate needs:

- Martha Maksym has been appointed as the designee of the Agency of Human Services; her term on the State Advisory Council will align with the length of time she holds her position. No vote necessary.
- Motion made by Betsy Rathbun-Gunn to re-elect Stacy Weinberger for a successive term with a second by Eddie Gale. All At-Large members voted in favor of this.
- Motion made by Aly Richards to elect Kim Keiser as Secretary and to serve on Executive Committee with a second by Ben Allen. All members voted in favor of this. The Council extends gratitude to Eddie Gale for serving in this role for the last four years.
- Motion made by Kim Keiser to elect Nicole Grenier to serve as an At-Large member of the Council with a second by Kim Coe. All At-Large members voted in favor of this. Nicole will replace Stephanie Winters whom resigned and will become a voting member once an approval letter from the Governor's office is received.

http://cdn.buildingbrightfutures.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/1c.BBF_Nominating-Committee_Report_March-2017.pdf

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has met, David Young is the Chair. There are many other work groups currently to focus on initiatives, which are front and center right now.

Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council & Early Childhood Action Plan 2.0 | Systems Visioning Process

Becky Gonyea presented and wanted to take a step back and inform the Council on progress to date while also noting the primary roles of the SAC in regards to the Action Plan. Becky also defined her role and scope of work as a strategic consultant of the Early Childhood Action Plan. Becky displayed steps on introducing an Action Plan Implementation Cycle.

<http://cdn.buildingbrightfutures.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2.SAC-Mtg-ECAP-Update-3-27-17.pdf>

BBF Budget Presentation FY18 | Sarah Squirrel

Sarah presented the Council with a first draft of the BBF FY18 budget. When Sarah came on, BBF was in a very different financial position. Her primary goal was to ensure a strong, sustainable infrastructure. This is being accomplished in part by:

- 30% decrease in overhead/ travel, supplies and rent
- Cost-sharing position in Franklin/Grand Isle region
- 3 Coordinators currently serving 2 regions
- Identified new funding sources and partnerships to create additional funding streams

There will be more to time review at the May 22nd meeting before a final budget vote.

Legislative Update | Matt Levin

Engagement level has been increasing steadily. Early Childhood Day at the Legislature was a success despite a snow storm. The group was much smaller and they received great feedback from Legislators about enjoying a smaller group during lunch. The budget is level funded coming out of the House. Thank you to Agency of Human Services for your support on Pre-K!

<http://vermontearlychildhoodalliance.org/legislative-agenda/2017/2017-legislative-agenda>

Focus Area Topic: Supporting the Social & Emotional Well-Being of VT's Children in Early Care & Learning Settings

This focus topic agenda has spanned the course of 2 meetings, this being the last.

<http://buildingbrightfutures.org/governance/state-advisory-council/>

Medical Home and Home Visiting | Breana Holmes

Breana Holmes reviewed in depth:

- The role of medical homes and home visiting in supporting the social and emotional well-being of children
- Home visiting models/programs in Vermont
- Opportunities for connection and collaboration in the early childhood system

<http://buildingbrightfutures.org/governance/state-advisory-council/>

Suspension and Expulsion in Pre K | Kate Abbott, Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, Early Education Program

Kate Abbott explained that children with behavioral challenges are often suspended or expelled from their early care programs; the Pre K expulsion rates in Vermont for 2003-2004 were 8.32 students per 1,000 enrolled. That is higher than the national average. Four children in her program alone were at risk of expulsion last year.

Interventions that have been found to prevent expulsion:

- Accessing a high quality Pre K program
- Equity in access
- Early childhood mental health supports, Children's Integrated Services
- Teachers who had access to behavioral services
- Expulsion occurs less often in public schools, more often private centers

Areas to focus our efforts:

- Support our teachers

- Collect data
- Increase access to high quality Pre K programs
- Expanding Early MTSS (Early multi-tiered systems of support)
- Access to behavioral and mental health supports
- VCPC (Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative) grants/supports

Effective workforce | Lisa Guerro, Director of Programs, Annette's Preschool

An essential component to supporting the social and emotional needs of children is an effective workforce. Professional development is very complex and strategies are needed to support social/emotional learning. To do this work, our workforce needs a lot of social and emotional support themselves. The coaching and consulting model seems to be working and it is making a difference in programs. Investments need to be made to afterschool programs for social and emotional learning.

Addison County Parent Child Center's work to support the social and emotional well-being of children | Donna Bailey

With a focus on parent engagement/involvement, Donna notes that transitions are critically important. Their center has an Early MTSS team working with school districts to create seamless transitions. In that region buses and transportation grants are available to help get families to the center, to their medical home etc. The PCC works on building relationships to support parent engagement and involvement, they help parents think about language and how they can change that to not create power struggles.

Winston Prouty Parent Child Center's work to support the social and emotional well-being of children | Chloe Learey

Winston Prouty follows the pyramid model for Early MTSS/CIS to support the social and emotional well-being of children. To create a continuum of support and build capacity to have inclusive programs that meet the needs of children and families. The positive solutions class for families changed into professional learning committee looking at professional development around supporting providers and what models work in other places. With a focus on creating environments where there are supports and learning but also similarities which translates to talking in a way kids understand.

SAC Discussion- There was rich discussion as Council members continued to identify recommendations around enhanced collaboration and next steps:

1. Common thread with Early MTSS
2. Strengthening families, parental coaching, relationships are critically important
3. The connection with pediatrician, medical home and with parents. We must work to have earlier proactive measures
4. Doctor check-up visits when done correctly are a great place to make a change

Next Meeting- Monday May 22nd | 12-3:00pm
Vermont Insurance Agents Association
600 Blair Park, Suite 100
Williston, VT 05495