



Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council (BBF SAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
July 24, 2017 11:00-12:00  
Vermont Statehouse  
Montpelier, VT

Present: Eddie Gale, Reeva Murphy, Aly Richards, Julie Cadwallader Staub, David Young, Kate Rogers, Kim Keiser, Nicole Grenier, Emily Merrill, Breena Holmes, Kenneth Jones, Ben Allen, Betsy Rathbun-Gunn, Chloe Learey

Absent: Charlie Biss, Kim Coe, Stacy Weinberger, Martha Maksym

Community Partners/Guests: Matt Levin, Ethan Latour, Amy Bolger, Lynne Robbins, Margaret Atkinson, Martha Allen, Lindsey DesLauriers, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Sue Ryan, Julianne Nickerson, Lisa Daigle Farney

Staff present: Sarah Squirrell, Carolyn Wesley, Jay Austin, Katie Mobbs, Emily Masseur, Dawn Powers, Nick Adams, Martha Braithwaite, Ellen Taetzsch, Robin Stromgren, Chad Simmons

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### **Welcome, Introductions & Other Business**

Betsy Rathbun-Gunn called the meeting to order at 11:10am and welcomed all in attendance.

### **Consent Agenda**

The Board passed the minutes from May 22, 2017; Kim Keiser made a motion to accept with a second by Eddie Gale, all members voted in favor.

For a copy of the May 22, 2017 minutes click here:

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

### **Review of BBF Annual Calendar**

For the State Council annual calendar click here:

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

### **Build Our Future | Leading a statewide visioning process to design Vermont's future early care and learning system by Sarah Squirrell, BBF Executive Director**

Appreciative Inquiry is an approach to complex systems change that emphasizes working from strengths to find new directions for growth, rather than focusing on weaknesses or problems to be solved. Build Our Future will be led by Building Bright Futures in collaboration with the David L. Cooperrider Center for Appreciative Inquiry at Champlain College.

Build Our Future will build on the great work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on financing high quality, affordable childcare. It is an opportunity to bring Vermonters together to collectively design an early care and learning system that meets the needs of Vermont's children and families. This work also supports goal #3 in the Early Childhood Action Plan. On June 15<sup>th</sup> the Steering Committee came together for the first meeting. The Governor was able to attend and revealed a cradle to career strategy.

There will be a two day summit in early October; over 300 people throughout Vermont will be invited to participate. A few of the discussion items that will be on the agenda:

- 0-5 blueprint and linkages
- Insuring equity of access

- How best do we link the 0-5 system with the K-12 system
- Key activities and next steps

### **SAC discussion-**

Build Our Future | Key Questions:

1. What opportunities do you see for you or your organization/agency as a result of this effort?
2. What would make this effort stronger and most successful?
3. What challenges might come our way and how can we meet them?

Julie Cadwallader Staub (Early Learning Challenge Grant) an incredible opportunity to be part of and move this work forward, keep our best work going. Messaging should be pre-natal this reminds people we are starting at the very beginning.

Ben Allen (Head Start Collaboration Office) likes the reduction of barriers and maximizing resources, the shared services model.

Aly Richards (Early Childhood Action Plan) Quality, accessible programming- we really need to move the needle on one sizable piece, in order to be successful we need a very concrete deliverable.

Kate Rogers (AOE) this makes good sense, using our lessons learned. Early Multi-tiered Systems of Support as an example. She does question birth to 5 initiatives versus birth to 8, messaging is critical and early childhood does not stop at age 5.

Sarah Squirrell (BBF) we want to follow the Blue Ribbon Commission who scaled this to birth to 5.

Chloe Learey (Winston Prouty Child Center) Where are the opportunities to strengthen the system and where are the hook ups, using collective impact as a framework feels very accessible to people.

The Steering Committee will meet again August 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Early Learning Challenge Grant: Fifth Year No Cost Extension by Julie Cadwallader Staub, Early Learning Challenge Grant Director**

Application update by Julie Cadwallader Staub; Part I of extension has been submitted. We have requested an additional year for all projects that do not conclude by December 2017. Part II is due July 31<sup>st</sup> and includes re-allocation of remaining funds. This can only include existing projects, no new work.

**Project 2- Building Bright Futures**, which has asked for additional funds in the fifth year to continue its collaborative systems-building work, as well as continuing its sustainability planning and implementation.

**Project 12- Early Childhood Wellness** has asked for additional funding to bring Help Me Grow to the next level, including the roll-out of Vermont's new universal developmental screening registry. The year will continue to position the project for long term sustainability, through the Vermont Department of Health's Maternal and Child Health division and its partners.

**Project 16- Early Childhood-Higher Education and TEACH.** This project, whose primary purpose is to help early childhood practitioners gain access to the credentials and degrees they seek, has asked for additional funds for two purposes: to continue the Early Childhood-Higher Education Consortium (which brings together representatives from all the institutions of higher education that offer early childhood programs in Vermont), and TEACH, a scholarship program for early childhood practitioners.

**Project 21- Early Childhood Data Governance.** This project seeks to develop a process that allows us to answer policy questions about early childhood outcomes with data that crosses age, program and agency. This will enable us to better

understand how children fare after leaving their early childhood program and moving into the K-12 system. This project has requested additional funding in order to continue to design and implement the process for the fifth year.

For the complete presentation click here:

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

**Next Meeting- Monday September 25<sup>th</sup> | 12-3:00pm**

**Vermont Insurance Agents Association**

**600 Blair Park, Suite 100**

**Williston, VT 05495**