



Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council (BBF SAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 2015 12:00-4:00  
600 Blair Park  
Williston, VT 05495

Present: Eddie Gale, Ben Allen, Maleka Clarke, Betsy Rathbun-Gunn, Breena Holmes, Mary Burns, David Young, Kim Coe, Kim Keiser, Julie Cadwallader-Staub, Stacy Weinberger, Kristin Mason, Stephanie Winters, Bill Frank, Reeva Murphy

By phone: Sarah Buxton, Becky Raymond, Robin Stromgren,

Absent: David Zuckerman, Kevin Mullin, Rebecca Holcombe, Pat Moulton, Charlie Biss, Tim Volk, Betsy Rathbun-Gunn

Community Partners/Guests: Matt Levin, Mark Sustic, Karin Edwards, Judy Pranksy, Becky Gonyea, Aly Richards, Carolyn Wesley, Bethany Hale, Melissa Riegel-Garrett

Staff: Julie Coffey, Katie Mobbs, Karen Conner, Deb McLaughlin, Cynthia Greene, Beth Truzansky

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### **Call to Order and Welcome**

Mary Burns called the meeting to order at 12:05pm and welcomed all in attendance.

### **Consent Agenda**

The Board passed the minutes from July 27, 2015; Ben Allen made a motion to accept with a second by Eddie Gale.

### **Action Plan Communications & Coordination Explained by Cynthia Greene**

BBF is in the process of coordinating six honeycombs aligned with each Early Childhood Action Plan goal to assist with aligning work within the goal, monitoring action on work and communicating updates related to each goal.

Honeycombs consist of a central committee and then any additional workgroups or committees which are working on behalf of the strategies/actions within a Goal. Mapping for all six honeycombs is under way with many connections identified (see example document of Early Learning & Development Honeycomb). This mapping will be on-going to ensure inclusiveness and to improve intentional work connections across honeycomb partners.

Currently four honeycombs are functioning:

Goal #1 Healthy Start for All = Honeycomb is Early Childhood Wellness Committee

Goal#3 Quality Services for All = Honeycomb is Early Learning & Development Committee

Goal #5 Know We Are Making a Difference = Honeycomb is Data & Evaluation Committee

Goal #6 Innovative/Connected System = Honeycomb is Early Childhood Coordinating Team

The other two goal's honeycombs are in development as there are capacity issues within the system and constituting these groups is a challenge for partners at this juncture.

Honeycombs have agreed to play these specific roles related to their assigned Goal:

- Membership agrees to assist in tracking measurements of strategies and actions of Goal #\_\_ and encourages entities supporting the work within Goal #\_\_ to feed data into Vermont Insights
- Membership acts as a trend watching group for EC Action Plan Goal #\_\_
- What are we seeing/noticing in the field across sectors? What is data telling us about this result and the work within the strategies and actions? What suggestions, course corrections, policy development etc might this group suggest to the State Advisory Council based on the trends we've identified? What and how does this group continue to connect with regional councils and local entities regarding this result and the trends we've identified?
- Membership agrees to hold its work and the collective impact of other groups associated with the Honeycomb against the Early Childhood Action Plan and Framework for continuous quality improvements.

Leadership agrees to assist in reporting Goal #\_\_ updates 2-4 times per year.

**Understanding for Action: Action Plan Goal #3 "All children & families have access to high-quality opportunities that meet their needs" Strategy #5: Actions A&B by Melissa Riegel-Garrett**

Melissa gave the Council an update on applications to be recognized as a Prequalified Pre-K Program, in the first cohort there were 37 applicants, from every region except for Newport, ten to date have been issued with six on a wait list.

Rich discussion ensued about the question "what can the BBF State Council do?" There are compensation issues and the question identified was:

Should this issue be handled by the Professional Preparation & Development Committee or the Early Learning & Development Committee?

Ben Allen advised we should put articulation agreements back on the table involving colleges and universities.

Kristin Mason feels the Council should require committees to complete timelines for long term planning.

Julie Cadwallader-Staub made a motion that the Early Learning & Development Committee take on long term coordination and come back with recommendations of next steps.

The entire Council was in favor of moving the issue of compensation to the Early Learning & Development Committee

**"Building Bridges: Connecting State and Community Early Childhood Efforts" key take away panel discussion of BUILD Conference in Pittsburgh, PA**

Julie Coffey asked Kim Keiser, VT Director for the Turrell Fund, to give BBF SAC members a brief overview of the national "Building Bridges: Connecting State and Community Early Childhood Efforts" meeting sponsored by the BUILD Initiative from September 15 - 18. Kim helped organize the Vermont team of 17 early childhood professionals hailing from St. Johnsbury and Brattleboro, to join other Vermont public and private state partners at this meeting. Nearly 100 colleagues from four other states also participated.

Kathleen Paterson, Co-Director of Vermont Insights, was asked to present at this national meeting. Paterson shared the progress of this publicly accessible Vermont resource as it grows and expands its early childhood data reporting system. Other presenters from the Vermont delegation were Kim Keiser (Vermont Director for the Turrell Fund), Barbara Saunders (Addison BBF Regional Council) and Jessica Nordhaus (Director, Burlington's Early Learning Initiative, Mayor Weinberg's Office).

Vermont's delegation of state, regional and community leaders had the opportunity to share with, and learn from, early childhood leaders from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. Each state had time as a team to assess how they would incorporate best practices and lessons when they returned. Members present were asked by Julie Coffey to reflect on one key takeaway from this meeting with BBF SAC members. The following members, both through technology and at the meeting, contributed their key learnings. These included: Kim Keiser, Reeva Murphy, Becky Gonyea, Carolyn Wesley, Chloe Leary, Dawn Powers, Kathleen Paterson, and Debra McLaughlin. Members reflected on the important work that BBF is doing and how its role can be strengthened as a support structure for effective state, regional and community partnerships to realize the promise of every Vermont child.

#### **Early Childhood Alliance Update by Matt Levin**

The Early Childhood Alliance and BBF have developed a process for entities submitting a legislative agenda application to the Alliance, to align their issue with the State Early Childhood Action Plan. This alignment and affirmation from the BBF State Council offers applicants additional points on their application to the Alliance.

For this next legislative session, VOICES for VTs Children sought alignment and affirmation from the BBF State Council on the issue of Paid Sick Leave. The issue was aligned with the State Early Childhood Action Plan and affirmed by the BBF State Council at the Sept meeting.

#### **Final vote on FY16 budget**

Prior to the meeting it was agreed the FY16 budget would be tabled for this meeting and voted on at the November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

#### **Vote to approve BBF credit card**

Julie approached the Council about the issue of having a BBF credit card rather than using the bank debit card for purchases. This would be a People's United Corporate credit card with a borrowing limit of \$5000.

Kim Keiser made a motion to accept with a second by Julie Cadwallader-Staub. All members approved

**Next Meeting- Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup> 12-4:30pm**

**We will be joined by the ELC committee from 3-4:30**

**600 Blair Park, Suite 305**

**Williston, VT**