



# Vermont Blue Ribbon Commission

Financing High Quality Affordable Child Care

Future Research Questions

January 2017

## Future Research Questions

The Vermont Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality Affordable Child Care was charged with analysis and recommendations addressing the cost of high quality child care, affordability, and financing. While the key areas addressed by the Commission provide critical recommendations for the state, the Commission recommends further study of the system of services and support available to children and families ages birth to five. To meet the needs of all Vermont's children and their families, the Commission outlines in "**Recommendation 2: Design and Implement Vermont's Future Early Care and Learning System for Children Birth – Five**" the need for further conversation and research to fully explore and design a system that considers delivery, funding, governance, and achieving economies of scale.

The following list of research questions were documented by Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG), the consulting firm contracted to provide research and writing support to the Commission. The research questions serve as a record of "parking lot" items and challenges Commission members discussed but were unable to address within the scope of their term. These questions are meant to serve as a guide for future parties seeking to design and implement Vermont's future early care and learning system.

### **1. Delivery: What changes can be made to create a comprehensive integrated early care and learning system?**

- a. What services are currently provided by state, non-profit and private providers for the health and development of children ages birth to five?
  - i. A comprehensive review should include direct and indirect services including, but not limited to:
    1. Direct child care providers
    2. Providers of comprehensive services including health, mental health, social services, transportation services, and services for children with special needs
    3. Indirect services such as child care resources and referral agencies, child care provider professional development and technical assistance services.
  - ii. How can Vermont maximize current wrap-around comprehensive services?
- b. Who are the service providers?
- c. How can the service providers work together to gain economies of scale?
- d. How can the service providers work together to maximize resources for all children birth to five and their families?
- e. Is there capacity in the K-12 system's infrastructure and transportation to support children birth to five?
- f. How do changes in child care providers and educator's wages effect the supply of child care professionals?

### **2. Funding: What is the totality of available resources for early care and learning and how should Vermont use the resources to better drive them into direct service?**

- a. What funding sources currently support wrap-around comprehensive services?
  - i. Are there some sources of funding that can be maximized if there were increased awareness and use? Example: referrals for healthcare services such as dental care

for children birth to five instead of provision of dental services on-site in child care providers

- b. Are there increased administrative costs to the state and/or school districts for expansion of state-funded early learning and care programs? How much?
- 3. Governance: What is the most appropriate governance model for a comprehensive integrated early care and learning system in the state?**
- a. What governance structure for Vermont’s early care and learning system allows for effective governance in which there is coherence among policies and services for children birth to five and equity in the delivery of programs and services?<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Who should provide monitoring and oversight of the early learning and care system?
  - c. Who and how will the distribution of resources be administered?
  - d. Who should be charged with ensuring that stakeholders (constituents) are given a voice?

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<sup>1</sup>Regenstein, Elliot J.D., Lipper, Katherine J.D. “A Framework for Choosing a State-Level Early Childhood Governance System.” Build Initiative, Early Childhood Governance  
<http://www.buildinitiative.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Early%20Childhood%20Governance%20for%20Web.pdf>