

Outline of Goals from BRC June Commission Meeting

During the month of June, PCG worked with the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) to thoroughly examine each of the stated goals of the Commission, codified by Act 58 of 2015, § C. 101. In order to better frame the Commission’s recommendations and final report, PCG crafted key questions for each of the Commission goals. The following tables summarize BRC member’s responses, organized by frequency of response, to indicate reoccurring viewpoints.

Goal #1

To determine the **total cost of providing equal access to voluntary, high quality, early care and education for all Vermont children**, ages birth to five.

A. The Commission shall **consider the needs and preferences of families**, which may range along a continuum from partial day or partial year services to full day or full year services, and include nontraditional work hours as well as unusual business hours or a combination of these.

B. The Commission shall also consider various family compositions and income levels, and recommend the **amount that families should pay towards the costs of high quality**, early care and education based on a sliding scale.

Goal #1: Equal Access to High Quality Care					
	1. What does Equal Access Mean to You?	2. How do you measure that access meets all children birth to five?	3. What needs and preferences are you considering?	4. What Measures do you Consider High Quality (inputs and outputs)?	5. Why does access to high quality affordable care matter?
1.	All children, regardless of income	More information needed on what’s available	Hours of service, consider non-traditional hrs	See BRC-approved definition	Life Success
2.	Family choice not constrained by cost or supply	Survey families and providers	Program Model	Experience, education, accreditation	Support for child development
3.	Access for all, regardless of socio-economic standing, to HQ programming	Develop indicators, review VT Agency/admin data	Service Delivery	STARS	Support families, 2 generation approach
4.	Children in poverty and with disabilities are not	Determine capacity – CCR&R	Setting	Social/emotional focus, outdoor play	Contribution to workforce and economy,

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	sorted into a subset of programs				economic stability
5.	N/A	Examine free or reduced lunch data and compare with PK	Income	N/A	Review both Birth – 3 and 3 – 5 years old.
6.	N/A	N/A	Age	N/A	N/A
7.	N/A	N/A	Responsive to full spectrum of kids' needs	N/A	N/A

Goal #2

To work in coordination with ongoing efforts of Vermont’s Early Learning Challenge – Race to the Top (RTT-ELC) grant, Vermont’s PreK Expansion Grant, and Vermont’s implementation of 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 166 – Universal PreK.

Goal #2: Work in Coordination with Vermont’s Ongoing Efforts		
	<i>1. What do you need to know about each of these initiatives?</i>	<i>2. What outcomes do you believe are important in measuring the success of these efforts?</i>
1.	Determine how agencies are currently working together to inform each other’s work and prevent duplicating services	Improvements in the lives of Vermonter children
2.	Focus on sustainability: what are the current plans for filling the gap once RTT-ELC funding is depleted?	High quality teachers
3.	How do we weave together these different programs into a unified system?	Increased access for all kids – pushing for UPK
4.	Address whether there is a problem of “too many cooks”	Availability meets demand- recognize the differences in regional needs

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	<i>1. What do you need to know about each of these initiatives?</i>	<i>2. What outcomes do you believe are important in measuring the success of these efforts?</i>
5.	N/A	Are programs getting enough financial support to move to 5 stars and other accreditation programs?
6.	N/A	RTT-ELC – system improvements, quality/access
7.	N/A	Workforce data/economic impact

Goal #3

To examine current policies in Vermont’s Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) in relation to national trends and innovation in subsidy practice, as well as the relationship between CCFAP and other public benefits, taking into consideration the overall impact on families, and **recommend changes to maximize the use of CCFAP** to support affordable access to high quality, early care and education for eligible families.

Goal #3: Examine and Recommend Changes to VT CCFAP		
	<i>1. What do you need to know about the CCFAP structure in Vermont?</i>	<i>2. What do you need to know about other states and national best practices?</i>
1.	Correlation between level of CCFAP participation and outcomes	National Best Practices
2.	What is possible, what flexibility is there?	Comparison specific to New England (comparable cost of living)
3.	Considerations for being a rural state with small units, high cost structure. Are urban models appropriate?	Creative ways other states have leveraged subsidy management

Goal #4

To review and **identify all potentially available funding** for high quality, affordable early care and education – as well as complete an analysis of funding mechanisms other states, regions, and countries use currently.

Goal #4: Identify Potential Funding Sources			
	<i>1. What do you see as the current funding sources for child care?</i>	<i>2. What do you think is the ideal mix of public and private funding to support equal access to high quality care?</i>	<i>3. What does a “utopian” family policy look like to you?</i>
1.	Federal (block grants and others), state	Publically-funded	Choice and access
2.	Increase taxes, grants, scholarships, subsidy	Need to determine what current mix is- Commission needs more information	Families don’t face decisions based on money
3.	ReadyNation/Business partnerships	N/A	Every choice is a high quality choice
4.	N/A	N/A	No constraints of supply and cost
5.	N/A	N/A	Vermont has to decide if “PK is going to be a private commodity or a public good”

Goal #5

To explore possible **funding sources** for equal access to voluntary, high quality, early care and education for all Vermont children ages birth to five, including investigating current tax credits, and public funding sources and the possible reallocation or expansion of tax and fee revenues.

Goal #5: Explore Possible Funding Sources			
	<i>1. What options have been explored?</i>	<i>2. What are characteristics of feasible funding options?</i>	<i>3. Funding for supply or demand-side?</i>
1.	Adjustment of CCFAP to meet market rates and FPL realities	Flexible, responsive, equitable	Both- supply limited & demand is high
2.	Prekindergarten	Public investment (requires adjustment in revenue models)	Depends on degree of public investment
3.	N/A	Feasible funding should be stable and sustainable – funding generators should have	Serve as a model for the nation

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		capacity to enforce oversight, quality, etc.	
4.		Funding for both B-3 and 3-5	Demand and supply are inevitable