



Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council (BBF SAC)
Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2016 12:00-3:00
600 Blair Park
Williston, VT 05495

Present: Eddie Gale, Maleka Clarke, Betsy Rathbun-Gunn, Reeva Murphy, Ben Allen, Kim Keiser, Julie Cadwallader-Staub, Charlie Biss, Aly Richards, Bill Frank, Kevin Mullin, Kim Coe

By phone: Breena Holmes, Bethany Hale

Absent: Rebecca Holcombe, Julie Cadwallader-Staub, David Zuckerman, Kristin Mason, Stephanie Winters, Stacy Weinberger

Community Partners/Guests: Matt Levin, Robyn Freedner-Maguire, Ann Dillenbeck, Amy Bolger, Lee Lauber, Julianne Nickerson, Carolyn Wesley

Staff: Sarah Squirrel, Katie Mobbs, Deb McLaughlin, Cynthia Greene, Beth Truzansky, Chad Simmons, Ellen Taetzsch, Nick Adams

Call to Order and Welcome

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

Consent Agenda

The Board passed the minutes from May 23, 2016; Eddie Gale made a motion to accept with a second by Aly Richards.

Executive Director- BBF Strategic Update by Sarah Squirrel

Welcome and thank you, it has been a very fast start here with many meetings completed in the past few months to greet members and community partners.

Sarah reviewed her key strategies for FY17:

1. To implement a phased FY17 budget to allow the new Executive Director to make sound budgetary recommendations for the organization, that are fiscally responsible and support core infrastructure to keep BBF a vibrant, healthy and valued organization.
2. To develop a strategic plan, assessment and vision in collaboration with the State Advisory Council, key partners and staff to support a sustainable organizational and financial model for the statewide Regional Coordinators & Councils.
3. To develop a strategic plan, assessment and recommendations in collaboration with the State Advisory Council key partners and staff and to support a sustainable organizational and financial model for the Early Childhood Action Plan.
4. To develop a strategic business plan and model with key stakeholders to support the continued implementation of Vermont Insights and the sustainability of the project.
5. To support and empower the State Advisory Council to be an active Advisory Board and to strengthen and align the work at the state and local level.

Rich discussion ensued and some comments around the strategic areas are captured here:

- With lack of AOE representation can the Executive Committee remind that a designee can be appointed
- Many of these strategies are related to BBF infrastructure which is important but are there other topics/issues we should consider
- Data & Evaluation committee members are eager to be supportive of Let's Grow Kids as they move to support BBF and would like to hear more about How are Vermont's Young Children report

SAC Process & Operating Vision

Sarah reviewed a Power Point presentation: ["BBF State Advisory Council: Building a Bright Future."](#)

Aly mentioned afterward that she is overall very encouraged by this tight definition of how the board operates so members can all be helpful. She would like to see mandates mapped out by linking strategies to mission priorities and what are the tactics that support these mandates.

Charlie also brought up an important issue of how do emerging issues get on the SAC agenda? All issues should be sent directly to Sarah and she will vet with the Executive Committee.

Establish Finance and Nominating Committees- volunteers noted

Finance Committee (will meet 3 times per year): Julie Cadwallader-Staub, David Young, Breena Holmes, Sarah Squirrell

Nominating Committee: Maleka Clarke, Kim Keiser, Kim Coe, Matt Levin

Blue Ribbon Commission by Jessica Blackman, Public Consulting Group (PCG)

This was a facilitated discussion with the Public Consulting Group (PCG) who is working with the Blue Ribbon Commission to gain input from the SAC for the BRC recommendations.

- Focus on raising compensation
- No higher education available- there is a disconnect between what people say is or is not available
- Wages are \$10-\$12 per hour even with a bachelor's degree
- Loan forgiveness or similar strategies
- There are arguments that Pre K is not necessary but it creates employment opportunities
- CCFAP and quality rating system etc. not as close to being robust
- Transportation in rural communities is a big issue
- Stigma around sending your child to a Parent Child Center
- Need to educate that Pre K is not just "free childcare"
- EIC tax credits- if we cannot pay livable wages can we not at least give some tax credit
- Need to look deeper at shared services model

Vermont Alliance by Matt Levin

Matt updated all on the [Alliance affirmation process.](#)

Next Meeting- Monday September 26th 12-3:00pm

Vermont Insurance Agents Association

600 Blair Park, Suite 100