



Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council (BBF SAC)
Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2017 11:00-12:00
Vermont Statehouse
Montpelier, VT

Present: Reeva Murphy, David Young, Amy Fowler, Breena Holmes, Ben Allen, Chloe Learey, Stacy Weinberger, Aly Richards, Julie Cadwallader Staub, Cheryle Bilodeau, Nicole Grenier, Emily Merrill, and Claire Kendall on behalf of Donna Bailey (Parent Child Center Network)

Absent: Eddie Gale, Donna Bailey, Kenneth Jones, Mike Mrowicki, Richard Westman, Betsy Rathbun-Gunn, Kim Keiser

Community Partners/Guests: Matt Levin, Becky Millard, Sheila Quinneville, Sandra Cameron

Staff present: Sarah Squirrell, Carolyn Wesley, Emilie Kornheiser, Katie Mobbs, Emily Masseau, Nick Adams, Margaret Maley, Beth Truzansky, and Steve Ames. Phone- Dawn Powers and Ellen Taetzsch

1. Welcome, Introductions & Other Business

Sarah Squirrell called the meeting to order at 12:10pm.

a. Welcome all in attendance

b. Consent Agenda

The Board passed the minutes from November 27, 2017; Julie Cadwallader Staub made a motion to accept, with a second by Stacy Weinberger, all members voted in favor.

For a copy of the November 27, 2017 minutes click here:

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

c. Nominating Committee Business by Carolyn Wesley

The Nominating Committee could use more members, possibly 2. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Carolyn Wesley at cwesley@buildingbrightfutures.org. The commitment for this is roughly two times per year or on an as needed basis. Current and upcoming vacancies:

- second seat open for a member of the Vermont House
- vacancy to fill Stephanie Winters' seat to fill with either health or healthcare reform representation
- Eddie Gale and Betsy Rathbun-Gunn will be wrapping up their second terms at the end of March. Looking to fill those two seats with a member of the business community and a representative of Head Start.

d. Legislative Breakfast

The Legislative breakfast held on December 14th at the State House was a huge success, thank you to all who attended. There were approximately 70 attendees for the morning.

e. How Are Vermont's Young Children and Families Report & Press Conference

The final version of the How Are Vermont's Young Children and Families Report was released on January 10th at the State House; approximately 80 people attended. This is a big accomplishment of BBF and the State Advisory Council. Congratulations and good work to our Communications Director Emily Masseau. Next steps are to move the report and

the data into action through our Regional Councils at the community level and use the report to advise the governor and legislature on the status and well-being of children and families in Vermont.

f. BBF Substance Use and Opiate Task Force Report & Recommendations

Sarah Squirrell and Jolinda Laclair have had meetings to develop next steps, Jolinda recently appointed by Governor Scott as Director of Drug Abuse Prevention oversees the Governor's Opiate Coordination Council.

2. Act 166 Recommendations Report by Amy Fowler, Deputy of Agency of Education, and Reeva Murphy Deputy Commissioner of Department for Children & Families

- a. Review of proposal and timeline related to the Act 166 Recommendation Report and the role of the State Advisory Council and Regional Councils

The House Education Committee took an extensive amount of feedback last session in regards to how the Act 166 process was going, public forums were held, and the agencies of Human Services and Education put together a report of proposed changes to the law in November, 2017. The agencies are proposing that BBF Regional Coordinators gather statewide stakeholder feedback on the proposed changes in order to provide a report to the legislature by crossover (early March). The Agency of Education will work with BBF to design appropriate questions to be asked uniformly but will leave it to the regions and BBF to decide the best way to orchestrate these conversations at each Council. BBF Coordinators are charged with being a listening, convening ear to collect feedback and bring the information back.

3. Vermont Insights by Nick Adams

- a. Vermont Insights overview and strategic planning for future development

The development of Vermont Insights began in 2014 and continues through 2018. VI acquires public data then cleans it, processes it, and publishes it. Nick is working to find out who the data users are and what data they want.

A data use survey went out in January on three different dates. This survey reached 14,852 people via email and 9% of those responded. With this survey, Vermont Insights is looking to find out how they improve, how can VI become a search hub with an open and collaborative system.

4. BBF SAC Focus Topic Engagement | Addressing trauma/adverse childhood experiences through a focus on protective factors and social emotional wellness

The State Advisory Council (SAC) has chosen to address trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) through a focus on protective factors and social/emotional wellness as one of their priority topics during their September 2017 meeting for the upcoming fiscal year. During the January 2018 SAC meeting, the Council was asked to sink its teeth into this topic in order to make policy recommendations down the road.

This portion of the meeting started with an overview presentation on existing efforts related to this issue in Vermont.

- The council reviewed BBF's recent report, *How Are Vermont's Young Children & Families?* Family & Social Relationships chapter, which highlights the impact of multi-generational strategies to address ACEs and includes a description of existing efforts that support social and emotional wellness and strengthen protective factors in families.
- Senator Ginny Lyons provided an overview of the Act 43 workgroup, established to review efforts across the state to address trauma in order to develop a systematic approach addressing ACEs.
- Kathy Hentcy and Daniela Caserta shared information about Building Flourishing Communities: a statewide public health approach to spreading information about the NEAR sciences (neurobiology, epigenetics, ACEs, and resilience). As the title of the initiative suggests, they are trying to flip the conversation from the negative impacts of trauma, to the positive impacts of creating communities where children and families can thrive.
- Amy Bielawski-Branch shared information about a trauma-informed training for caregivers of foster, kin, and adopted children. A major positive outcome they've seen thus far is that caregivers are reporting a

greater sense of efficacy in parenting and a decrease in challenging behaviors from the children in their care.

- Becky Millard rounded out the presentation by sharing how early childhood professionals across the state have been asking for resources and trainings to support children experiencing trauma. Trainings on these topics will be available this year through the new North Lights Professional Development system at CCV.

The SAC then broke into small groups that included all meeting attendees to discuss what action the SAC or a sub-committee could take in addressing ACEs and promoting resiliency and protective factors. One member of each group then reported out their discussions as follows:

- **Group 1:** This group reported on the need to understand how to measure whether we're making progress on addressing ACEs and trauma and/or building resiliency in both the short and long terms. They also saw the need to get people using the same messaging across sectors. For example: Can doctors and early care and learning professionals all use a common language when talking to families about these issues? The group suggested that the SAC or a sub-committee could develop a glossary of terms to determine how we want to talk about this issue moving forward.
- **Group 2:** This group discussed the need to capture and connect the many initiatives that are already in place. There are so many working groups and initiatives going on and there is a need to strengthen the connective tissue and to articulate the relationship between different efforts. This group also discussed developing and using common terminology across sectors and the desire to make sure strategies are linked. Performing an inventory of what has worked well in the past and how we can do more of the same work in the future would also be beneficial. This group suggested that the SAC try to identify/build upon an existing group that could take on this work.
- **Group 3:** This group discussed the need to get information directly from kids and families instead of making assumptions about their needs and care. Getting this first-hand data would be powerful moving forward. Remembering that different organizations have different goals and approaches to this work can help build bridges as well. For example, in the school system the child, and not the parent, is the primary client, and they use the language of Youth Thrive, whereas Building Flourishing Communities is looking at whole communities. As we better understand one another's goals, practices, language, and frameworks, we can better partner together and collaborate across sectors. There is a lot of commonality between different models/frameworks and we can help make this explicit for partners.
- **Group 4:** This group reported the importance of not minimizing concrete supports as a protective factor for families, and that the ability to connect families to those supports is inconsistent, and needs to be systematized. We can continue to expand points of entry and focus on more family-friendly delivery. This group also felt that data on families **not** accessing services who need them would be helpful, though difficult. It is critical to view parents and families as equal stakeholders in this work.

After the group report-outs, SAC members were invited to offer final thoughts for BBF to keep to in mind as we move forward with this work. Emily Merrill, a parent and at-large member of the SAC, affirmed that using common language across settings would make parents involving parents in their own treatment more inviting. This is a very delicate conversation for families, so thinking about ways to be inclusive, open, safe, and respectful is important to keep in mind.

Other thoughts from SAC members included:

- Working toward the same message in medical home, education setting, and home visiting
- Using the collaboration continuum to better understand our goals for this work. Where are we at currently and where do we want to go? Are we just trying to create better understanding of one another's work? Shifting and aligning practices? Integrating services? If this is explicit, it will be easier to measure our success in this work.
- Whatever language/framework we unify around, embedding it in existing tools like STARS, professional development, etc.
- We should shift our conversation from what we are doing to treat families to what we are doing to support families to thrive.

After this report-out, Sarah said that BBF will synthesize this information, maintain leadership from the SAC, and discuss next steps on how to develop a team to move this work forward. She also asked if any SAC members would be interested in joining, and many council members shared that they would like to volunteer their time.

3:00pm Motion to adjourn the meeting

**Next Meeting- Monday March 26th | 12-3:00pm, Early Learning Challenge Grant portion 3-4:00pm
Vermont State House, Room 11
Montpelier, VT**