

Building Vermont's Future Think Tank

The next step in designing VT's future 0-5 early care and learning system



BACKGROUND

Building Bright Futures (BBF) – Vermont's early childhood public-private partnership – was charged by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care to engage diverse stakeholders in a statewide effort to explore and develop recommendations for a comprehensive integrated early care and learning system. The Commission recommended that this process begin early in 2017 and conclude in time to deliver proposed recommendations to the state legislature by no later than January 2019.

On October 3-4, 2017, as a critical first step in this process, BBF convened over 200 Vermonters, representing a wide variety of early childhood sectors, in a collaborative design process to identify what works best in the current early care and learning system, and how to leverage these strengths toward our future system. A report of design ideas that emerged from the Summit can be found at <http://buildingbrightfutures.org/building-vermonts-future-from-the-child-up/>.

BUILDING VERMONT'S FUTURE THINK TANK OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Think Tank is to synthesize and refine the ideas and work of the Building Vermont's Futures Future from the Child Up Summit into an actionable blueprint for the future of Vermont's 0-5 early care and learning system; which should include

- Articulation and consideration of existing Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations
- Vermonter's vision and ideas captured in the pre-summit community engagement process
- Refinement and expansion of Summit ideas and recommendations that align with the Blue Ribbon Commission system design areas (outlined in our Summit Report)
- Identification of what is required to move the recommendations forward in terms of policy, legislative, and administrative action
- Timeline and tiered implementation plan and strategy

Building Vermont's Future Think Tank Membership

Aly Richards, *The Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children*

Amy Fowler, *VT Agency of Education*

Becca Balint, *Senate Majority Leader*

Becky Millard, *Community Colleges of Vermont*

Betsy Rathbun-Gunn, *United Counseling Service*

Breana Holmes, *VT Department of Health*

Claire Kendall, *Family Center of Washington County*

Dana Robson, *VT Department of Mental Health*

David Young, *South Burlington School District*

Deb Brighton, *Fiscal Analyst*

Diane Nichols Fleming, *North Country Supervisory Union*

Ginger Farineau, *Hunger Free Vermont*

Jeff Francis, *VT Superintendent's Association*

Laurel Bongiorno, *Champlain College*

Linda January, *Otter Creek Child Care Center*

Naomi Alfini, *Parent Representative*

Pam McCarthy, *VT Family Network*

Paul Behrman, *Champlain Valley Head Start*

Rebecca Schrader, *VT Community Loan Fund*

Reeva Murphy, *VT Department for Children and Families*

Sarah Buxton, *VT Department of Labor*

Sarah Squirrel, *Building Bright Futures*

Sonja Raymond, *VAEYC, Apple Tree Learning Centers*

Moderator: Paul Costello, *VT Council on Rural Development* | **Facilitator:** Susan Titterton, *Consultant* | **Staff:** Carolyn Wesley, *BBF*

BUILDING VERMONT'S FUTURE THINK TANK TIMELINE

The Building VT's Future Think Tank will meet four times between April and October 2018 in order to develop recommendations that meet the charge of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care. Throughout the process, the Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council will serve in an advisory capacity to the work of the Think Tank. In November 2018, the State Advisory Council will approve the final recommendations of the Think Tank.

MARCH

- Think Tank Members Announced
- Material, data, research, prep work
- Work with moderator and facilitator to develop agenda's and plan for meetings

APRIL

Think Tank Meeting, April 30 (4 hours)

MAY

BBF State Advisory Council Review, May 21

JUNE

Think Tank Meeting, TDB (4-8 hours)

JULY

BBF State Advisory Council Review, July 23

AUGUST

Think Tank Meeting, TBD (4-8 hours)

SEPTEMBER

Draft recommendations for State Advisory Council Review, Sept 24

OCTOBER

Think Tank Meeting, TBD (2 hours)

NOVEMBER

Final recommendations approved by State Advisory Council, Nov 26

DECEMBER

Final report printed

JANUARY

Delivered to legislature