



Building Bright Futures

600 Blair Park, Suite 160, Williston, VT 05495

802-876-5010 | buildingbrightfutures.org

BBF State Advisory Council | Identifying Council Priorities for 2019

Objective

The State Advisory Council will identify two priority topics for action in 2019 that will inform recommendations in the 2019 *How Are Vermont's Young Children and Families* report.

Topics Identified at Oct 22 Assembly of State and Regional Councils

On October 22, 2018, BBF convened an assembly of the state and regional councils. This was an opportunity for leaders to better understand each other's work and the relationship between their work in order to ensure that sensible state policy is informed by the wisdom of communities, and that Regional Councils are supported as critical tables for communities to problem solve, coordinate, and take action.

Through this discussion, State Advisory Council and Regional Council leaders reflected on shared issues and priorities, and identified concrete actions most needed at the state level to improve our system and support the work of the regions. The actions identified are listed below. The actions highlighted in bold were prioritized by the most attendees:

ECL CAPACITY AND ACCESS

- **Develop recommendations about changes to Act 166 to inform legislators (proactive vs. reactive) starting from common ground across settings = 14 dots**
- Gap analysis of licensing regulations and ability to meet them = 1 dot
- Infusion of funding and restructuring of CCFAP = 2 dots
- BBF leadership on successful implementation of Act 166 = 1 dot

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL

- **Early MTSS training and coaching and implementation statewide with dedicated staff for programs (mental health consultation) = 14 dots**
- Challenging behaviors = 9 dots
 - Workforce training
 - Perinatal supports
 - Supports for foster families

HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Expanding Early Childhood mental health (supports, services, consultation) = 16 dots**
- Systems analysis of CIS; access, resources and capacity = 9 dots

WORKFORCE

- **Ensuring access to affordable Professional Development coursework. Relevant coursework that will help people advance in their work (access public and private settings) = 16 dots**
- Analysis of transition to Northern Lights Professional Development System = 4 dots
- Loan Forgiveness = 2 dots
- Expanding cross-sector approach to Professional Development = 0 dots
- Qualified workforce = 6 dots
 - Scholarships
 - Using CTE, career pathways, pipeline

FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE

- Identify best practices in transportation = 2 dots
- How to work with other sectors to leverage supports for families (housing, transportation, food security) = 0 dots
- Support paid family leave efforts = 5 dots

OTHER

- Closing communication loop between state and regional activities (SAC members to attend regional council meetings) = 2 dots
- When to bring councils together to discuss statewide issues e.g. Act 166, STARS = 0 dots
- Utilizing data informed decision making in our actions and recommendations (RBA) = 0 dots

Guiding Questions

1. What possible actions/topics are missing from this list that SAC members would like to see prioritized in the coming year?
2. Considering the updated list of actions/topics, and the initial prioritization that took place on October 22, what two topics would you prioritize for 2019? Consider the following criteria:
 - **Actionable** – Is there an actionable strategy that the SAC can take related to the topic under Act 104
 - **Feasibility** – Are the resources (staffing, expertise, funding, political) available to accomplish the action?
 - **Urgency** – What is the value/outcome/importance of prioritizing this action in the coming year?
 - **Cross-cutting** – How does this issue impact across multiple domains of early childhood system and build on the strengths and progress of each of our six Action Plan results/goals and Regional priorities and needs?

Also consider what action is already underway at other tables, and where leadership from the SAC is most needed.

3. Given the priority topics the council has identified for the coming year, consider the following?
 - a. Where should ongoing work/discussion of this topic sit? The SAC table? A BBF committee? An ad hoc task force?
 - b. What might successful action on this topic look like? A white paper? A set of recommendations? A change in policy or practice?