



Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council (BBF SAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2019

Present: Julie Cadwallader Staub, Stacy Weinberger, Cheryle Wilcox, Renee Swain, Amy Johnson, Reeva Murphy, Janet McLaughlin, Breena Holmes, Katie Watts, Kate Rogers, Kim Keiser, Sue Ceglowski, Nicole Grenier,

On the phone: Chloe Learey, Emily Merrill

Absent: David Young, Sara Barry, Aly Richards, Mike Mrowicki, Richard Westman, Martha Maksym,  
Community Partners/Guests: Eddie Gale, Lee Lauber, Matt Levin, Andrea Racek, Melanie Boyle

Staff present: Carolyn Wesley, Katie Mobbs, Jay Austin, Julia Andrews, Amanda Biggs, Beth Truzansky, Steve Ames, Liz Hamel, Darla Senecal, phone: Ellen Taetzsch, Dawn Powers, Robin Stromgren,

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**1. Welcome, Introductions & Other Business**

Carolyn Wesley called the meeting to order at 12:17pm

**a. Welcome all in attendance, review agenda**

**b. Consent Agenda**

The board passed the minutes from the November 26, 2018 meeting. Kim Keiser made a motion to accept, with a second by Stacy Weinberger. All members voted in favor of approving.

**c. BBF ED Hiring Process**

Moving along with hiring process, 27 candidates have applied. Reeva and Kim are vetting and looking for the top 6-8 candidates. Interview Committee members include Executive Committee members, a Regional Coordinator, BBF staff and Regional Council member. First round interviews will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the top 2 candidates will come to a meet and greet following the SAC meeting on Monday February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**d. Federal PDG Grant**

Awarded 3.4 million dollars, which was 70% of original request. Activities 1 & 2 must be preserved in budget cut process, activity 1 is needs assessment, activity 2 is strategic plan process.

**e. Nominating Committee**

There are no anticipated openings in the SAC this year, so there is no need to appoint a Nominating Committee.

**f. New BBF website**

We also provided a brief overview of our new website, which will launch in the coming days.

**2. How Are Vermont's Young Children & Families Report**

We undertook a partner exercise that enabled everyone to dig into the How Are Vermont's Young Children and Families Report more deeply. After some time reading through a specific chapter, participants paired up to talk about data points that jumped out at them.

### **3. Early Childhood Action Plan Update 2019**

Beth Truzansky led a discussion about making targeted updates to Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP) in 2019. Updating the plan is one of the deliverables in the PDG grant. The group identified some key strengths of the current plan including the fact that the Early Childhood Framework and Results of the Action Plan are strong, and any updated strategic plan should build on this foundation. The group then discussed priorities and criteria for updates to the plan including: incorporating Vermont's Guiding Principles for the Full Participation of Each and Every Child and Family to bring an equity lens across all results, choosing strategies based on impact, keeping regional voice in mind, and identifying data indicators to help us monitor progress toward goals. This conversation was a strong first step as we prepare to update the Early Childhood Action Plan.

### **4. BBF State Advisory Council Policy Priorities**

Finally, we addressed the 2019 SAC policy priorities that the council identified in November of last year:

- Expand and strengthen early childhood mental health supports, services, and consultation across multiple settings; and
- Grow the early childhood workforce across sectors

Small group discussions addressed the following questions in order to help the council prepare for action in the coming year:

- What questions do you have around these policy areas?
- What existing efforts are underway in these areas?
- What action can you envision in relation to these issues?

Groups reported back on their conversations, revealing many questions and ideas on each topic area. The topic of mental health supports seemed particularly complex and in need of tighter definition. One idea was to convene a think tank on children's mental health to identify specific recommendations that could be presented to the Governor and Legislature.

There were several ideas around growing the workforce, many of which talked about aligning education programs starting at the high school level. Additional ideas about salary and loan forgiveness aligned with the work of the Building Vermont's Future Think Tank, though the SAC is looking at this topic as reaching beyond the early care and learning field.

**Next Meeting- Monday February 25<sup>th</sup> | 12- 3:00pm**  
**Vermont Insurance Agents Association**  
**600 Blair Park, Williston VT 05495**