

Objectives:

- Welcome
- Updates/Housekeeping
- Amy Wenger introduction
- BBF Regional Action Plan
- BBF Regional budget
- Alix Gibson

PRESENT: Jess Graff- Early Childhood & Perinatal Specialist, HEART Program-PCC, NCSS
 Jessica Barnes: Administrative Assistant, Early Childhood Programs, MRUSD
 Tanya Mitchinson: Administrative Assistant, Early Childhood Programs, FNWSU
 Bonnie Massey-Preston: Early Head Start County Supervisor, Grand Isle/Chittenden
 Amy Wenger-MCH Clinical Nurse Case Manager, FCHHA
 Natalie Glynn- Field Manager & Business Organizer, Let's Grow Kids
 Michelle Trayah-Child Adult Food Program Coordinator/Car Seat Fitting station
 Jen Severence- Community Program Support Specialist, Let's Grow Kids
 Deb Grennon: Family Engagement, Early Childhood Programs & F/G. Isle Bookmobile

Updates/Housekeeping***Liz Hamel:***

- Early Childhood Day at the Legislature: Senator Parent, Representative Eileen Dickinson and Rep. Mike McCarthy came and discussed PCC Reach Up, CIS programming, the budget process and economic development in our region specifically.
- We have officially hired Morgan Crossman as the new BBF Executive Director! She will begin June 1st. In the interim, Beth Truzansky is acting as the BBF Executive Director.
- Toiletry Drive: We ended originally at 654 items for the toiletry drive, but a last minute donation brought us to a grand total of 731! It was a great success and all toiletries have been dispersed to food shelves in respective regions.
 - Refer Abenaki identified community members back to the Abenaki Nation: serving 400 families, etc.
 - People don't think about toiletries going to food shelves, now they know! Our impact was felt across the region
- Follow-up about VT 2-1-1 Resource Directory: If people have updates, please send to me!

Natalie Glynn:

Early Childhood Day at the Legislature (ECDL): 300-350 people were counted in attendance at the LGK rally. Overall, the 25th Annual ECDL was super successful. A child care bill (H.531)-is in motion through the House. LGK warms invites you to write your local House Reps and send appreciations for the work they're doing for our region. (See attached list to learn who those folks are!)

Michelle Trayah:

Schools that qualify for free breakfast/lunch meals in the region has significantly reduced...food program sponsors found out that there is a huge decline in qualifying schools...only 5 schools qualified this year across Franklin/G. Isle! Big concern school: Berkshire Elementary (93% of students qualified for free/reduced lunch...only 43% qualified this year). What's happening here?

- We think it could even be simply the fact that parents aren't signing up/filling out applications.
- Language in application/appearance of application isn't good
- WIC qualifying families: don't AUTOMATICALLY get signed up! This is important for families to know!

PLEASE NOTE FOR FAMILIES: EVEN IF FAMILIES DON'T THINK THEY'LL QUALIFY, all families should apply because reimbursements for schools are dependent on number of applications.

Hunger Council: Hunger Free VT sent email: proposed rule change for SNAP (3Squares)...right now states have ability to put time limit on 3 Squares VT for those unemployed, giving time until job is

secured...law states that benefits for over 750,000 Americans by making it even harder for some unemployed and underemployed workers to access benefits when they have trouble finding steady work. (Essentially, people have to be employed to qualify for 3Squares).

The council has expressed interest in having someone from Hunger Free VT come and talk to our table about current initiatives in the region and how our council can support movement.

Deb Grennon:

In the process of applying for/submitting grants to support the Book Mobile. Still looking for new fiscal agent for the Book Mobile, but Deb reports they have some positive potentials! Looking for fiscal agent for before June 31st.

Tanya Mitchenson:

Lots of calls from families for preschool registration for the fall. Early childhood link for SU websites...fielding questions due to consolidation. Sheldon families are still calling Tanya for registration, if needed, depending on the direct of the consolidation. Tanya will either keep the families or dispose if needed.

REMINDER: Big Rig Day is taking place on April 13th! Contact Tanya if you have any questions:

Tanya Mitchinson
Administrative Assistant
Early Childhood Programs FNWSU
100 Robin Hood Dr. Suite 2
Swanton, VT 05488
802-868-4457

Jess Barnes:

The Maple Leaf Montessori School has to move out of its current location (at Barlow Street) by the end of June. Connected with Jen Severence-LGK to connect with the school staff to explore options.

Bonnie Massey-Preston:

Looking to fill Head Start programs (full days are offered at both Swanton and St. Albans locations) for the fall, EHS: home based placements are available! If you have specific questions, please connect with Bonnie!

Jen Severence:

Shared some of the current and on-going Make Way for Kids grants supporting child cares in the region:

- A second placement in Fairfax
- Georgia's Next Generation: funded, opened
- Grand Isle Child Care: a potential opening in the next year. Grant awarded
- Home provider in Highgate (exploring options at this time)
- Home-center in South Hero
- Jen shared that there is a Volunteer group in Enosburg who is hoping to start child care conversations in that community

Child Care Business Administration workshop in Montpelier, has been very well-attended. If there's a new session later on, Jen will share

Jess Graff:

The HEART Program is doing very well and has been well-received in the region. Referrals are coming in consistently, now serving 20 families for on-going services...some families straight out of the hospital. Liz Hamel will be taking referrals for this program as of May 1st, 2019.

Housing update: 3 Transitional Apt buildings in St. Albans fell through at the beginning of the year...However, the Housing Review Team is in the finishing stages of securing housing, funding and case management services through community partners. Jess can provide updates at next month's meeting.

Amy Wenger: Welcome our New MCH Clinical Case Manager, FCHHA!

- Introduction
- Discussion of gaps/areas of improvements
- How can our community collaborations support each other

Amy has been a Doula for 19 years, wants to learn more about the HEART Program and support this initiative. Previously worked as the Practice Administrator at AppleSeed Pediatrics in Morrisville.

Really wants to collaborate with the community partners, making gaps in care nonexistent! Would like to work on bringing pasteurized donor milk (breast milk bank) for moms/families in our region. Working on making lactation consultants/home nurses certified to provide this service to moms/families.

Strong Families VT (VT is piloting program): Sustained home nursing program, (new NFP). Can take on those with more than one baby, enrolled prenatally-6 weeks post-partum, see a minimum of 25 times in the 2 years, developmental assessments, ASQs, UDSR, teach how to communicate with babies, lactation work.

Our Regional Action Plan/BBF Funding Deliverables

- Reviewing the last section of our Action Plan
- Any new Action Steps our council would like to add?
- Can we get more parents to our table?

BBF funds: breakdown and deliverables for the year

1. Each council has officially received \$7,000 to support council initiatives. Funds came from Lets Grow Kids, HMG and the Fed. Preschool Development Grant.
2. Deliverables focus on improving family engagement activities, convening community activities that incorporates child assessment, professional development opportunities, child care engagement programming.
3. A new deliverable: finding 1-2 parents and offering stipends to them to train parents as leaders in the community, supporting some of the initiatives that our council wants to work towards. (i.e. maybe paying parents to facilitate school days to sign up for free/reduced lunch??)
4. Facilitate 3 outreach events to support Screenings/Universal Screening Registry

IDEAS FOR MOVING OUR ACTION PLAN FORWARD: Our Brainstorm

- Food insecurity for infants: food shelves, infant drive?!?!?
- Book Mobile: data collected says: book swap and reading to kids/families, can we tag into a community event?
- These community events mean a lot to our families...collective impact WORKS and reaches so many of our families. How can we make these action steps felt across the region?!?!?
- Presenting ACES to families that don't feel dooming.
- Supporting Librarians for after school care/support

Upcoming Council Meetings/Adjourn

- Hunger Council Video/Discussion-Jenna O'Donnell (MAY?)
 - Universal School lunch programs for school
- STARS discussion at council: May 16th
- Parent panel (GRAND Parents, BBF Co-chair?)
 - HOW are we getting families involved
 - Should BBF Council members/parents be at the different ECAP committees
- Family Engagement Specialist for the region...identify and hire, who/how should we go about this?
- BBF Website/Our Page!
- Update: Tim Smith and Sheri, Exec. Directors of Economic Development

- Discussion of our council getting on the agenda for the Community Partnership Meeting: first Wednesday of the month, 8:30-10:30: 30 second update, presentation every month (June/December: legislators are there), what are our concerns concerning legislation. 30-50 members of the community partnership meeting. Joe Halko-20 minute presentation, get in for the Fall
- Everyone will get a copy of our updated BBF F/G. Isle Action Plan ☺