



Objectives:

- Welcome
- Updates/Housekeeping
- Alix Gibson-Intro and how BBF Council can support DCF
- BBF Regional Action Plan: Review/disperse
- STARS Training/Regional Discussion
- Hunger Council Video

PRESENT:

Becky Gadue: Head Start County Supervisor
Adri Taylo-Berhman: Northern Lights, CCV- Resource Advisor for CCV locations in Winooski & St. Albans
Jess Graff: Early Childhood & Perinatal Specialist, HEART Program-PCC, NCSS
Jen Severence: Community Program Support Specialist, Lets' Grow Kids
Mary Pickner: Substance Abuse Prevention Consultant for Vermont Dept. of Health
Bonnie Massey-Preston: Early Head Start County Supervisor, Grand Isle/Chittenden
Natalie Glynn- Regional Field Manager & Business Organizer, Let's Grow Kids
Deb Grennon: Family Engagement, Early Childhood Programs & F/G. Isle Bookmobile
Michelle Trayah-Child/Adult Food Program Coordinator/Car Seat Fitting station, F/G. Isle
Heather Simkins-Maternal Child Health Coordinator F/G. Isle, Vermont Dept. of Health
Alix Gibson-District Director, St. Albans DCF Family Services

I. (10 min) Welcome & Introductions

- Introduce yourselves: Name, role, and appreciations
- Agenda Review

II. (30 min) Updates/Housekeeping

- **(5 min)** Universal Developmental Screening: Booth at Kids Fest
- **(5 min)** Our Caledonia/Orleans County: Linda Michniewicz was hired as the new BBF Regional Coordinator (replacing Dawn Powers).
- Jenna O'Donnell-offered to come in May...
- Look at the table!
- **(5 min)** Infant Drive:
 1. Start in June?
 2. Locations?
 3. Who will donations go to?
 4. Sub-committee to talk about this drive?

Heather Simkins:

It's tick season: ID cards for ticks/bugs are available if people want them for their respective organizations/sites

WIC will be launching/offering SDF- Silver diamine fluoride treatments at the WIC clinic. (Treatment stops plaque/decay from worsening, prevents cavities, etc). Typically done with infants/young children, but adults can absolutely opt to do so!

WIC clinic has opened in Alburgh! This will be available quarterly (the next in July) at the Municipal Offices.

No updates of Hepatitis A outbreak (reports of confirmed HEP A in NH and VT)...there isn't a public update as of yet, but Heather will be happy to provide updates as they come.



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Bonnie Massey-Preston/Becky Gadue:

Head Start is in full recruitment mode: recruiting for St. Albans and Swanton HS 8:30-2:30 classrooms, as well as outreach for the islands.

Mary Pickener:

VDH and UVM recruiting 12-25 year olds to complete surveys around alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs. Can get up to \$50 in gift cards, (various amounts)

HRSA (Rural Services Administration) grant renewal: prevention and wrap-around services. Addressing opiate use, treatment OR recovery in the region. \$300,000 for 3 years.

Jen Severence:

Capacity work (child care): has met with new prospects for child care around the region.

Enosburgh child care initiative: a meeting was held in Enosburgh last week looking at issues around child care in Enosburgh. Michelle Trayah was able to bring statistics around child care in the region, Melissa Riegel-Garrett brought perspective of licensing, and Jen brought resources for potential child care openings. She continues to increase supports for child care providers to raise/maintain STARS ratings and offer career development options.

Jess Graff:

Kids Fest: Friday Aug 2nd, from 2:00-5:00pm

RSVP to Margaret Maley for Kids Fest boots/activities.

Improve Foster care/recruitment for the community: collaboration for Kids Fest

Adri:

Services are available for anyone who needs advice around professional development (Fundamentals Training to further career development). Can help navigate resources (financial to pay for college courses) and coordinate non-credit trainings.

**Fundamentals Trainings (45 introductory trainings who are new to working in home/center based-requirement for licensing; medication training, specialized care, etc.): they are offered 4 times a year.

Trainings-social emotional development of toddlers and trauma-informed practice

Reflective Practice for providers and mentors in programs (June, 2019)

Next Fundamentals Training: September 2019.

Will continue to discuss opportunities for parent/provider trainings in the region (work with council)

Michelle:

Hunger Council: John Gorton-Sheldon Food Shelf, Robin Way-CIDER Executive Director, Tony Auriemma-Northwest Family Foods are presenting on transportation barriers to food access at the Vermont Foodbank Conference on May 3rd from 7:30-4:00 in Killington, VT. Looking for ideas from other regions about how people are combating barriers to food access.

Natalie Glenn and Michelle are sitting on the planning committee for the Formidable Fours: four biggest barriers to access employment in the region: child care, substance use, housing, transportation.

Child care summit will be taking place on Monday May 6th from 2:00-4:00 at City Hall

Legislators and business leaders are invited!

5 agencies working on it, United Way leading the charge

Deb:

Book Mobile is still looking for fiscal agent...Americorps Vista continues to write grants to keep funding, but still needs a fiscal agent.

Within the Family Engagement Coordinator role: Administratively changing/shifting the lens of early childhood to incorporate family engagement. Defining family engagement, looking at how the whole state of VT considers this term)...we can't educate children without the family taking a primary role in that!



Natalie:

Update on legislation: H.531: House of Human Services version of the bill is in the Senate (through next week)...then Senate Appropriations after that. PLEASE write/call your local senators about your personal/professional connection with high quality child care. Please reach out!!

IV. Regional Action Plan:

- Review
- Questions/Comments/Concerns
- Family Engagement
- Next Drive?

Council Brainstorm:

- Christa Mordoff: Foster Parent Panel...accessing and supporting these parents in the Family Engagement portion of our work?
- Trauma-Informed space for DCF family visitation rooms-Family Engagement (Using council funds)?
 - Cost of original room update that the Parent Child Center of NCSS did a few years ago cost \$1,700.
 - ***The council voted to secure \$1,700 of the council's funds to give some updates to the existing family visitation rooms at DCF. Committee will be meeting:***
- Offer scholarships for families to go to trainings and/or to attend trainings with their child care providers?
- Bring a trainer here: to train foster parent panel, flexibility in learning what families want/need. As we hear about trainings: If you're interested, financial scholarships could be available...possibility of linking these kinds of opportunities to social media: FB page at PCC, The Family Center, School websites, libraries...

**** All of these ideas derived from this notion: PROFESSIONALS ARE NOT ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN PARENTS-WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!****

- Sub-committee from the council was created to work on the DCF family visitation rooms: Jess Graff, Michelle Trayah, Liz Hamel, and Heather Simkins...If anyone else wants to have a hand in this, please reach out to Liz!

****Action Step: Liz will send a doodle poll to secure a time/date to meet as group****

Plans for the Infant Drive, as discussed during the meeting today:

WHEN: JUNE 1st-JUNE 30th

Participants:

Locations TB confirmed: Hannafords

Vermont Adult Learning

Church of the Rock



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Highgate Library/Community Center
PCC South Hero
Parent Child Center-NCSS
Northwestern Medical Center
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Vermont Dept. Of Health

Liz will inquire: The Y After School Program: Pam
Richford Market-Vista Foods
Supervisory Unions
National Honors Society (Pick up or sort, collect at lunch time at school, etc.)-Will reach out to guidance counselor offices.
Sherri Potvin-Executive Director of Economic Development Corp-Grand Isle
Delta Dental

Liasons-Jess inviting (Sheldon, High Gate, Richford-librarians)
Librarians: Deb will send an invite to everyone

Communications/Outreach:

- ❖ Joe Halko of NCSS has a flyer started: Flyer to be completed ASAP, Liz will follow-up with this
- ❖ Flyer will specify items for children ages: birth-2 years of age
- ❖ All items need to be in original packaging, unopened, NEW-unused items
- ❖ Items to include: Formula, Diapers, Bottles/pacifiers, Baby Cereal, Baby food, Diaper creams, Nursing Pads, Lanolin, Wipes, Baby toys, Books, Bath Items, Baby detergent, Tooth brushes, Teething items
- ❖ Items NOT to be included: NO crib bumpers, used baby gear, used baby toys, no clothing/bedding
- ❖ All donations will be divided among VDH, FCHHA, DCF Economic/Family Services, CVOEO, PCC of NCSS
- ❖ Our goal is to get 1,000 ITEMS!
- ❖ The council will hopefully have a flyer before May 6th.

➤ We will plan to review this briefly before our next council meeting!

V. STARS Evolution Phase 2 sessions/Regional Discussion

- May Council meeting
- Inviting our EC providers

Council agreed to have this at May meeting, however...state partners need to change this date. Please be on the lookout for

Someone who works at the state office building (27 Federal Street, St. Albans) to let people in: 6:00-8:00pm.

V. Hunger Council Video/Wrap-Up

- Welcome to stay for a few minutes of discussion
- Connection to our hope in supporting free/reduced school lunch program

SEND Video with Meeting Minutes!!



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Robert/Northwestern Regional Planning

VII. Adjourn (3:05pm)