



## BBF Child Outcomes Accountability Team Notes

November 18, 2021 | 9:00-10:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85664773532>

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*The BBF Child Outcomes Accountability Team works to improve integration and coordination of early childhood public and private partners committed to the health and well-being of children and their families. The group will inform strategies and monitor progress to ensure that children are healthy, thriving and developmentally on track from the prenatal period to third grade by promoting and monitoring outcomes in the following domains: physical health, development and educational outcomes, mental health outcomes, and basic needs outcomes. Goal 1 also promotes the importance of prevention and early identification across the same domains.*

### Desired Outcomes

- Reflect on the October COAT presentation and discussion about Children's Integrated Services. Share what worked, what was challenging and can be done differently and any follow up to improve future COAT meetings
- Explore the Head Start model which is featured in the Build Back Better Act proposal (Federal Reconciliation Bill). Explore opportunities to build on successful components in Vermont
- Celebrate efforts and review data to expand the use of ASQ developmental screening in early care and health settings.

**Present:** Cynthia Green/VT FEED, Renee Kelly/CDD, Kelly Wallace/CIS Hartford, Jill Larson/CIS Hartford, Lauren Smith/VDH, Sheila Duranleau/CDD, Tanya LaChapelle/LGK, Bev Boguet/LGK, Jen Fortman/Parent, Michele Johnson/AOE, Danielle Dukette/CDD CIS team, Amy Bolger, CDD, Janet Kilburn/VDH, Jill Pearl/CDD CIS team, Amy Johnson/NCSS, Pam McCarthy/VT Family Network, Breena Holmes/VCHIP, Anna Brouillette/BBF, Beth Truzansky/BBF

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 - 9:20	<b>Introductions &amp; Opening Reflection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflect on the October COAT meeting and discussion about the 2020 Act Early Needs Assessment. Gather information about COAT members' experience in the meeting (information will be collected in writing and verbally as people are comfortable)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Share key learnings or takeaways from our previous meeting</li></ul></li><li>• Reflection-- what worked, what was challenging and can be done differently and any follow up to improve future COAT meetings.</li></ul>

- Take a minute to reflect on last meeting: Share one thing you took away or learned from our last meeting.
- Share about how it went or felt from your perspective.

Comments:

- What stood out to me - the many strengths the VT EC system has that are available to build on - but that across the board the system is under-resourced
- Appreciation for the reflection on the original vision of CIS and how VT has or has not implemented that vision with an eye toward updating the system
- I appreciated the historical context and the vision of CIS at its inception, and I look forward to innovative and family driven evolution moving forward
- I appreciated having so many regional CIS leaders join us
- Wondering about all the data CIS regions have collected over time and how that is being used
- Well said, great comments regarding CIS, who is coming together, how we are approaching our history and how we can innovate forward as Lauren said

What additional follow up is needed - what would you like to see the COAT committee follow-up on or do based on that discussion?

- *Note: Please keep the BBF team posted if you have any additional thoughts on this.*

9:20-  
10:00

### **Head Start in Vermont and the opportunity with the Build Back Better Act**

Explore the Head Start model which is featured in the Build Back Better Act proposal (Federal Reconciliation Bill). Explore opportunities to build on successful components in Vermont. For more information, see this [memo](#) prepared by BBF summarizing the childcare and UPK portions of the bill as it relates to Vermont, as well as the [Hunt Institute's resource](#) summarizing the bill's early education components.

How is Head Start model featured in the Build Back Better Act: program quality, curriculum, guidelines, wrap-around services in non-head start services?

- BBF is actively monitoring the federal legislation - see above for our memo
- Head Start Program Performance Standards are seen as gold standard - state's QRIS levels (the highest) has to be equivalent or higher
- Head Start programs included in UPK investments
- Enhanced reimbursement rates for UPK for programs providing more comprehensive services - HS, and others doing so
- Best practices in family engagement and leadership work
- What is the Head Start model in Vermont? (Renee Kelly)
  - Head Start Collaboration Office is a partnership with the state and regional private head start partners. Funding is a federal to local system where funds go to community partner programs. HSCO does not do monitoring - the purpose is in coordination and collaboration.
  - 7 grantees across the state serving kids Early Head Start (prenatal to age 3) and Head Start (age 3-5) Can be embedded in CAP agencies, Mental Health Agencies, School Districts, etc.
    - 72 locations of HS in Vermont - partnership programs (HS Child Care Partnership - FCCHs, home visiting, center-based, etc. with EHS/HS children being served)

- Model based on community needs assessment - means that service delivery varies by region
  - Policy Councils - governing bodies for HS programs, includes parent representatives. Something other programs/initiatives in the state can learn from
  - HS Programs - federal funding provides 4 hrs/day - layered with other state funding to provide full-day, full-year care (CCFAP, UPK, etc.)
  - 1,419 children, FPL guidelines (up to 130% FPL), any family accessing TANF, Reach Up, those experiencing homelessness. For “vulnerable families”.
    - Number based on federal funding, not the need.
  - From April 2021-now, Head Start has experienced a 15% reduction in workforce. Classrooms cannot necessarily be open. Importance of filling HS enrollment for BBB in order to capitalize on funds
  - HS Wage Comparability Study - link will be provided. Wages across the board are low. Benefits are a plus and are competitive with the field.
  - Head Start programs are required to maintain a waitlist - demonstrate the demand for these services.
    - HS grantees prioritize families on the waitlists strategically - i.e. - those experiencing homelessness. Regionally flexibility based on needs, community assessment, etc.
  - Focus on school readiness, comprehensive services (w/ significant prioritization of physical and mental health and safety). Dental care and services.
  - Access to Mental Health Consultants - referrals, support of program staff, children, and their families
  - Nutrition support and education - partnership with local farm to school programs, WIC, etc.
  - Family support specialists - assess goals and needs of families, and support them with connecting to programs, etc. that would help meet those goals
  - Goal of achieving “safety, permanency, and wellbeing” in child welfare work - wellbeing is a strong example of what we mean by “wellbeing”
- Discussion: In your role, what do you observe is working well and what are opportunities for expansion if Vermont receives this proposed investment in universal pre-K and child care? Are there areas of concern?
  - How are we thinking about our early childhood system? Head Start is an amazing set of services - how do we set up other programs (like CIS) to have the capacity to support children and families in a similar, comprehensive way? How do we think about serving all children with these high quality services?
  - Excellent standards, high quality staff, complimentary services of HS are inspiring for all programs that serve young children and families in our state. Importance of prevention and early intervention focused programs, leveraging funding in a collaborative way to fund these types of programs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ COVID-19 has taught us that we need health and safety professionals in all settings - HS has always had a health care focus. A model to reach for in other ECE and all settings that serve children.</li> <li>○ "We know that this works well, and it is a really expensive model" - it is the right thing to do, the gold standard for serving young children and families, and yet we cannot get there because of resources. Opportunity to lean into this model (despite resources) with possibility of influx of funding. Yes, it is expensive but results in tremendous resources.</li> <li>○ How do families get involved in HS? Are some parents missing out on these services? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Supportive partnerships with other organizations serving vulnerable families - TANF, Reach Up, etc. Ensuring that staff are trained in warm hand-offs and referrals to/from HS programs. HS Staff required to meet certain benchmarks for applications for families. Pretty intensive recruitment efforts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Workforce - the critical break or make point for making HS work with infusion of federal funds. Need to think creatively about addressing this crisis, getting qualified staff, mentoring and coaching new staff, etc.</li> <li>○ How do we unify models for things like coaching/mentoring for all programs (including non-Head Start)</li> <li>○ What are those basic needs that aren't being met and what we can learn from based on HS's prioritization of nutrition, etc.?</li> <li>○ Scaling up and expanding the Strengthening Families Framework in our programs/services in VT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ CSSP - looking for partners to weigh in on updates on the framework. Taking a new look at HS Standards as they think about this update.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10:00 - 10:20	<p><b>Accomplishments with Child Developmental Screening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Following the discussion we had last time about strengthening the early identification and intervention system - it seems relevant to reflect on some recent successes within the system as well. In partnership with Let's Grow Kids, Help Me Grow has greatly expanded the use of ASQ online developmental screening in ECE and health settings. They provided an update on that work, told us more about who has been trained, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Lauren Smith -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HMG has made great strides in aligning screening and early identification efforts across environments and programs - pediatric medical homes, children's home environments, early care and learning programs, etc.</li> <li>● Use of ASQ Online increased by 7,964% during 2020, from previously 28 screens to 2,258 screens entered</li> <li>● Centralized training and TA Center for developmental screening</li> <li>● Empower parents to fill out ASQ online anywhere and from any device - boosting completion rates</li> <li>● More data to come potentially around data entered by families vs. in other settings</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interesting breakdown provided on charts regarding screenings by provider type (health care providers, early educators, home visiting, and CIS)</li> <li>• Thank you to our Help Me Grow colleagues (Lauren and Janet) for this incredible work, and to Let's Grow Kids (Tanya and Bev) for elevating and supporting this work. Please be in touch with these teams with any other further questions! (<a href="mailto:info@helpmegrowvt.org">info@helpmegrowvt.org</a>)</li> </ul>
10:20 - 10:30	<p><b>Updates and Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation to the Early Learning and Development Committee on December 9th 10:00 am-12:00 pm which will host a follow up discussion with UVM Research Team about the PIES report (Promoting Inclusion and Exploring Supports for Children)and opportunities to use the research to inform practices and investments.</li> <li>• There is no December COAT meeting and looking to 2022, we note the February 24th meeting may fall on school vacations. Please let us know if you are unable to attend.</li> <li>• Cynthia: CACFP Bill Organization Sign-on opportunity:  <a href="https://www.ccfroundtable.org/post/action-alert-cacfp-bill-to-be-introduced-in-the-house-needs-your-organization-s-support">https://www.ccfroundtable.org/post/action-alert-cacfp-bill-to-be-introduced-in-the-house-needs-your-organization-s-support</a></li> </ul>
10:30	<b>Adjourn</b>

#### Quick Links

[November 18 recording](#)

[October 28 COAT Notes](#) and [recording](#)

[September 9 recording](#) (Joint meeting with Early Learning and Development Committee including a presentation of EMTSS and PIES report)

August 26 [recording](#)

[May 27 COAT Notes](#) and [recording](#)

[April 22 COAT Notes](#)

[March 25 Recording of COAT meeting](#)

[About the Child Outcomes Accountability Team](#) and archived meeting materials

[2020 Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan](#)

#### Upcoming Meeting Dates and Topics

December 23 - **meeting canceled** due to holiday/vacation season

January 27- Family Engagement

February 24 (school vacation week - check on attendance)