



## BBF Child Outcomes Accountability Team Agenda

March 24, 2022 | 9:00-10:00 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

- Learn about family engagement and partnership work currently taking place in the BBF Network and beyond
- Explore the ways early childhood stakeholders are currently partnering with families, and where there are opportunities to further and more meaningfully engage with families
- Get an update on evidence based home visiting efforts and priorities

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 - 9:10	<b>Introductions, Review Agenda, Announcements</b>
9:10 - 9:30	<b>Home Visiting Updates</b> - Get an update on evidence based home visiting efforts and priorities with Karen Bielawski Branch and Margaret Urban, Vermont Department of Health
9:30- 10:30	<b>Family Engagement and Partnership</b> Family engagement and partnership is a priority for early childhood partners; called out in the 2021 Policy Recommendations (see p2) and in the <a href="#">Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan</a> Goal 2: <i>Families and Communities Plan a Leading Role in</i>

	<p><i>Children's Well-Being.</i> Jen Fortman, Parent Co-Chair of the Families and Communities Committee and Charlotte Safran, MCH Family Partnerships Consultant, will share about their work to elevate family voice in decision making. They will share definitions, components of an accessible meeting and efforts to build meaningful family partnership.</p> <p>A brief presentation will be followed by small group discussion to the following prompts,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In your opinion, what is the difference between family engagement and family leadership?</li> <li>● How have you/your programs engaged with families?</li> <li>● What family leadership training or programs are you aware of that already exist?</li> </ul>
10:30	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting: April 28, 2022</b></p>

[About the Child Outcomes Accountability Team](#) and archived meeting materials  
[2020 Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan](#)

**COAT Meeting Topics and Recording Links**

February 23 COAT [Recording](#), Presentation on Vermont's Child Care and Early Childhood Education Systems Analysis

January 27 COAT [Recording](#), Meeting focus: COAT topic and process check-in, State of Vermont's Children data, and Updates

[November 18 COAT Notes](#), [recording](#), and [slides](#), Meeting focus: the Head Start Model and ASQ Developmental Screenings

[October 28 COAT Notes](#) and [recording](#), Meeting focus: the Act Early Needs Assessment and Early Intervention Services and Delivery

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

August 26 [recording](#), Meeting focus: the VIP-3 Grant and policy recommendations

[May 27 COAT Notes](#) and [recording](#), Meeting focus: SAC Recommendations, the early childhood mental health system, and pediatric health care

[April 22 COAT Notes](#), Meeting focus: Food security and nutrition programs' connection to the early childhood system

[March 25 Recording of COAT meeting](#), Meeting focus: Systems of supports for families impacted by substance use disorder

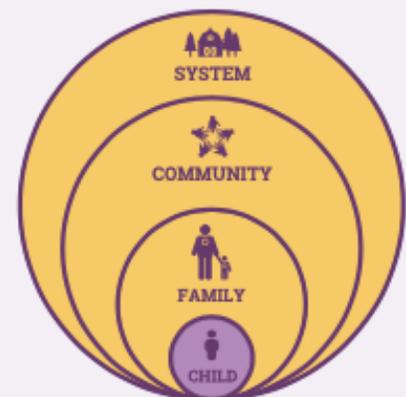
## ELEVATE FAMILIES AS DECISION MAKERS

**Why it Matters:** Family knowledge, values, beliefs, and cultural backgrounds should always be incorporated into the planning and delivery of policies and services. Providing parents and caregivers opportunities to express their thoughts and concerns contributes to an early childhood system that mirrors the diverse needs of Vermont families. It also provides children and future generations the opportunity to have a voice and be leaders in the creation of the system instead of solely being consumers of resources, services, and supports. Such partnership and the inclusion of parents and caregivers in critical systems conversations and decision-making processes ensures families become leaders in designing a responsive system that works for them.

### LEVELS REQUIRING ACTION > FAMILY - COMMUNITY - SYSTEM

**RECOMMENDATION 1 (Levels 2-4) Representation and voice matter.**  
Engage families with lived experience to participate in leadership and decision making across sectors and policy areas:

- Require each legislatively mandated board/committee/study section/decision-making body have at least 1 parent representative with lived experience (having parented children through the early childhood years 0-8, experience with the system of services).
- At the community, state, and policy level, conduct review of programs, policies and legislation to ensure that revisions and requirements consider the impact and consequences to child development and family well-being.
- Utilize the BBF Families and Community committee to consult on policy development; particularly when parent representation on committees is not yet reached.
- Foster engagement by calling out and working to dismantle barriers that are symptoms of systemic, institutional, and individual racism.



**RECOMMENDATION 2 (Levels 2-4) Create a culture that invites and supports family engagement and partnership, and provides the necessary training and coaching to attract families who are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the current process, language, and decision-making structure:**

- Develop and use a common definition of family engagement and partnership throughout the state's early childhood system.
- Invest in strategies to engage culturally and linguistically diverse populations (provide translation and interpretation, accessible language, utilize cultural brokers, identify current barriers etc.)
- Provide training and coaching of early childhood professionals, boards/committees and policy makers in order to successfully engage diverse populations and families as decision makers.
- Promote and increase family participation through engagement, training, coaching, compensation in early childhood programs and services.
- Measure impact and ensure accountability by conducting regular family engagement assessments.

**RECOMMENDATION 3 (Levels 2-4) Fully commit to the Vermont Guiding Principles Supporting Each and Every Young Child and Family's Full and Equitable Participation by advancing policies and practices that honor of each family's culture, strengths, and expertise:**

- Create a strategic plan to operationalize the Vermont Guiding Principles.
- Demonstrate commitment by posting the Vermont Guiding Principles on organization/agency websites, aligning Guiding Principles into State of Vermont contracts, and referencing in scopes of work.
- Demonstrate commitment to fully include each and every child and their family by referencing Guiding Principles in early childhood laws and initiatives