

VERMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD GRAND ROUNDS

Family Leadership - Promising Practices



Early Childhood Grand Rounds provide a forum to elevate and disseminate high-quality data or data-related topics that affect Vermont's early childhood sector, as well as national best practices. This seminar series is hosted by Vermont's Early Childhood Data and Policy Center, which is operated by Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council, Building Bright Futures.

This Early Childhood Grand Rounds session is co-hosted by the Building Bright Futures Families & Communities Committee. The Families and Communities Committee empowers families to participate in designing collaborative early childhood systems that represent the diverse needs of all families in Vermont. We prioritize and elevate parent and caregiver voices while strengthening connections, providing leadership development opportunities, and offering mutual support by building a statewide community.

Moderators



Jen Fortman
Co-chair
Families & Communities Committee
families@buildingbrightfutures.org



Sarah Morrison
Co-chair
Families & Communities Committee
familiescochair@buildingbrightfutures.org

Panelist Bios



Sadia Batool, Pennsylvania
Early Childhood Family Lead for Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems
Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning

Sadia Batool, born and raised in Dubai is a physician by qualification with a current focus on supporting families and professionals in the Early Childhood Systems. Her passion for the Early Childhood field stems from her personal experience of receiving life-changing Early Intervention services for her daughter. Sadia is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning Policy Fellowship and the 2023 National Prenatal to Three Leaders Fellowship from the Rockwood Leadership Institute. She currently serves as a family and professional representative on a variety of local, state-wide, and national organizations serving families and children including serving as the Governor appointed parent Co-chair to the Pennsylvania State Interagency Coordinating council. Sadia is committed to enhancing family engagement and leadership across maternal and early childhood systems. In 2021, she joined the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning as the Early Childhood Family Lead for Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Health Integration Prenatal-to-age Three Project, a Federal grant Pennsylvania received to focus on cross-sector collaboration and partnership, health system transformation, state-level policy and fiscal innovation, family leadership, and advancing equity.

JULY 18, 2024 10:00-11:30am

[Register here for the virtual panel](#)



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Panelist Bios



Anna Cyr, Maine

Maternal and Child Health Coordinator/Family Leadership Liaison
Maine Department of Health

Anna is the Maine Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Coordinator and the Family Leadership Liaison, Maine's Family Delegate to the Association for Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and sits on AMCHP's Family Lead Committee. Anna is the proud mother of two adult daughters who live with a rare genetic condition. She has used her experience as an advocate for her children to assist other parents of children/adults with complex health conditions in navigating systems. She is a past awardee of the AMCHP Merle McPherson Family Leadership Award, and a graduate of the Maternal and Child Health Public Health Leadership Institute. Anna lives in Leeds with her husband, Michael, and enjoys spending time with her family, camping, travel, musical theater, and being near the ocean.



Jacob Pinney-Johnson, National

Consultant/Trainer
National Center for Family & Parent Leadership

Jacob Pinney-Johnson joined ECIC in 2022 as Consultant and Trainer in Equity and Leadership. He is grateful to come from a family that instilled in him the values of equity and justice.

Through his journey as a father of two young children, he noticed many community spaces were not father and family-friendly. This led him, along with other fathers in his community, to help develop a fatherhood program at their local county department of health. Once established, Jacob worked as a community educator supporting new and expecting dads through fatherhood-based curriculums and home visitation, and he continues to support fatherhood programming in his local community. Jacob brings experience in racial equity, workforce development, and criminal justice.

As a consultant and trainer with the National Center for Family and Parent Leadership, Jacob works with parent leaders and partners across the nation who are working to build their capacity to embed family and parent leadership. He believes families are the nexus of our communities and that we have the answers to help solve many of the issues our communities and world face. Jacob has come to appreciate the quote of Grace Lee Boggs, "We are the leaders we've been waiting for."

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Charlotte Safran, Vermont
Family and Community Partnerships Program Manager
Vermont Department of Health

Charlotte Safran lives in Burlington, Vermont. Her journey of parenting a medically complex child has had a profound impact on the trajectory of her career, and as such she has a deeply personal commitment to spreading the power of narrative as social and healing justice. Having worked with patients and community organizations for over a decade, Charlotte works at the VT Dept of Health in the Division of Family and Child Health as the Family and Community Partnerships Program Manager. Charlotte is also the founder of "The Partnership Collective", a consulting practice that supports healthcare organizations in building equitable patient and family-centered care programs. The training Charlotte received from Human Impact Partners and the Institute for Patient and Family-Centered Care informs and guides her work, as does the lived experience of partners and community power building organizations. Some of Charlotte's current work includes advising organizations on how to develop compensation policies for community members with lived expertise; co-creating promising practices guidance for equitably engaging community members and community power building organizations and building relationships with organizations that support parents and children.



Bryce Starr, Missouri
Project Coordinator
Maternal and Child Health
Missouri Maternal Health Action Network

Bryce Starr (M.S.) is the Project Coordinator for the Missouri Maternal Health Action Network at the University of Missouri – Kansas City, Institute for Human Development. He received his Master of Science in Sport Medicine and Exercise Physiology from Western Michigan University (WMU) in 2018. Bryce has an Associate of Arts in Nursing, Associate of Science in Nursing, and a Bachelor of Science in Sport and Exercise Science – Human Performance. Bryce is also a Certified Wellness Practitioner through the National Wellness Institute. Bryce is the former Coordinator for Fitness and Wellness at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL), and most recently the Research and Project Coordinator for Internal Medicine at the University of Texas: Health Science Center of Houston (UTHealth), McGovern Medical School. His work at IHD focuses on improving behavioral health outcomes for mothers, children and families affected by perinatal substance use. He is actively involved in facilitating collaboration and partnership, fostering co-learning and capacity building among partners and those with lived experiences, and works to develop strategic action plans and recommendations to foster effective cross-system collaborations and address barriers preventing mothers affected by perinatal substance use from receiving needed services.

Building Bright Futures (BBF) is Vermont's early childhood public-private partnership, charged under Vermont Title 33 § Chapter 46 and the Federal Head Start Act (Public Law 110-134) as Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council (SAC), the mechanism used to advise the Governor and Legislature on the well-being of children in the prenatal period through age 8 and their families. BBF maintains the vision and strategic plan for Vermont's early childhood system. BBF's Network infrastructure includes 12 Regional Councils, seven VECAP Committees, and the State Advisory Council. Learn more at buildingbrightfutures.org

The Vermont Early Childhood Data and Policy Center is a nonpartisan, independent source of data, research, publications and important information for policymakers, stakeholders, and the public on issues and priorities for children ages birth through age 8 in Publication Information Vermont. Using evidence to inform policy is a key component of how we can improve the well-being of children and their families across Vermont. The Center is a critical tool for answering policy questions by centralizing data from the complex early childhood system. Learn more at vermontkidsdata.org

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