



**Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council (BBF SAC)
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2024 (Via Zoom)**

SAC Members Present: Flor Diaz Smith, Ilisa Stalberg, Janet McLaughlin, Cheryle Wilcox, Renee Kelly, Xusana Davis, Rep. Jessica Brumsted, Eddie Gale, Carol Lang-Godin, Sharron Harrington, Becca Webb, Dimitri Garder, Christy Swenson, Paul Dragon, Mike McRaith

Absent: Meg Porcella, Shayla Livingston, Jessica Vintinner, Senator Ruth Hardy, Alexis Duquette, Libby Daghlain, Kendal Smith, Aryka Radke

Community Partners/Guests: Lee Lauber, Jennifer Cleveland, Annemieke Thoolen, Laura Slesar, Amy Murphy, Erin Roche, Erin Oalican, Beverly Boget, Sherry Carlson, Matt Levin, Amy Brooks, Stephanie Carvey, Howard Morrison, Sarah Gagne, Gina Cancia, Cynthia Greene, Thalia Garcia, Laura Beatty, Tiffany North-Reid, Breena Holmes, Helen Mattheis, Wendy Hubbard,

Staff present: Morgan Crossman, Beth Truzansky, Kate Bailey, Katie Mobbs, Anna Brouillette, Kelly Hayes, Michelle Kersey, Courtney Hillhouse, Dora Levinson, Linda Michniewicz, Valerie Wood, Jenn Schollmeyer, Darla Senecal

This meeting was recorded and that recording can be found [here](#)

Welcome & Introductions

1. Welcome all in attendance, mindful moment, review agenda

2. Legislative Priorities for 2024

Morgan Crossman and Anna Brouillette provided an overview of BBF's advisement approach. BBF's role is to:

- a. convene and elevate the voices of families and early childhood stakeholders;
- b. monitor the system by identifying and provide high-quality up-to-date data to inform policy and decision-making;
- c. and using both of those critical pieces of information to advise the Governor and Legislature

BBF's advisement takes on several different forms including written and verbal testimony, individual meetings with Agency leaders and informal conversations calling on the data and research BBF publishes annually. In 2023, BBF advised lawmakers, legislative staff, and the Administration over 75 times - this doesn't include the regular meetings our team has with members of the Administration and the Governor's office.

This presentation was followed by small groups for SAC members to discuss with each other key legislative priorities they are monitoring or advocating for in 2024. The topics included: Housing and Economic Security, Perinatal Health, and Early Education and Pre k. While there was limited conversation during the meeting, it did prompt discussion over email among several

SAC members related to use of public funds to support Vermont's mixed delivery system of early childhood and afterschool programs which is a hot button issue in the legislature.

3. Vermont Early Childhood Fund

SAC members were briefed on the Vermont Early Childhood Fund from Michelle Kersey, Grants Manager. She shared the funding priorities and trends from the first round of Vermont Early Childhood Fund grants under the VIP B-5 grant awarding \$1.2M to community agencies.

4. SAC General Business

a. SAC Membership Nominations: Christy Swenson to Executive Committee

The Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council, at the recommendation of the Executive Committee, moves to elect Christy Swenson, an at-large member, to the Advisory Council's Executive Committee for a term of two years ending March 31, 2026

Motion to approve made by Flor Diaz, with a second by Eddie Gale. There are no opposed and no abstentions from the vote. All members voted in favor of approving Christy Swenson to serve as an at-large member of the Executive Committee .

b. October 2023 SAC Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve October 23, 2023, minutes with the edit of adding a y onto "inventory" made by Renee Kelly, with a second by Becca Webb. There are no opposed, Carol Lang Godin abstains from the vote. All members voted in favor of approving October 23, 2023 minutes

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:42pm.

Next Meeting- Monday February 26, 2024 1:30-3:00 | via Zoom