



**Child Outcomes Accountability Team Agenda**  
**January 23, 2025 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Watch the Recording here: [▶ Child Outcomes Accountability Team January 2025](#)**

**Desired Outcomes**

- Learn about different trauma-informed, family connection frameworks used across the state.
- Monitor progress towards the Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP) Goal 2: Families & communities play a leading role in children’s well-being.
- Make connections across programs, identify best practices, and suggest recommendations for policy change or collaborations across the early childhood system.

**[Slide Deck](#)**

26 participants, 1 parent representative

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 – 9:05	<b>Welcome</b>
9:05 – 9:10	<p><b><a href="#">Review of Vermont’s Strategic Plan (VECAP) Goal 2 and the importance of family/child connections.</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Objective 2.1: Support parents and caregivers to build connection and capacity to serve as their child’s first and most important teacher.</li> <li>● Objective 2.2: Promote child, family and community resilience, connection, and belonging.</li> </ul>
9:10 - 9:50	<p>There are multiple frameworks serving different populations and meeting different needs across the state. We want to go deeper into some of those frameworks today and explore similarities and perhaps systems-level consideration towards monitoring Goal 2. Other frameworks include Head Start, MESH among others. In this meeting, we had the following presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Touchpoints</a>, Rachel Wallace-Brodeur, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP)</li> <li>● <a href="#">Strong Families Vermont Home Visiting: Sustained Family Support, Parents as Teachers (PAT), a part of CIS</a>, Anna Maguire, CIS Coordinator, Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA)</li> <li>● <a href="#">Nurturing Parents</a>, Michelle Richling, Family Support Program Director at Prevent Child Abuse VT</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Strengthening Families</a>, Michelle Richling, Family Support Program Director at Prevent Child Abuse VT</li> </ul>
<p>9:50 – 10:25</p>	<p><b>Discussion</b> We will have a few guiding questions and then move into small groups to dive deeper into connections across frameworks and any challenges or recommendations we want to elevate to policymakers.</p> <p><b>What are the common themes and best practices across approaches?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Theme of supporting positive relationships, parents as experts and first educators. Even when parents have made challenging choices, empowering parents and giving access to knowledge and language</li> <li>● Theme - strength based, relational, belief that families can be nurtured and strengthened and able to meet the needs of their children, developmental play</li> <li>● Noticing and co-interpreting purpose of behaviors. Starting from a place of parent health (mental and physical) and basic needs</li> <li>● Parents as leaders!</li> </ul> <p><b>Do these programs work together? How do we break down silos and collaborate to support families?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Touchpoints as a mindset, not structured curriculum. Can be overlaid with any other framework.</li> <li>● Touchpoints and PAT home visitors trained and dovetailed beautifully together. Hope to make more inroads with DCF workers in common approach.</li> <li>● Share programs more broadly so theres a diverse group of parent perspectives in these programs.</li> <li>● Head Start 'Growing Great Kids' similar to PAT used in home visiting with Head Start families.</li> </ul> <p><b>Are these programs meeting the needs of children and families? Is something more needed to make these programs successful?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Want to know more about referrals and how folks get connected.</li> <li>● Peer support for families is very valuable.</li> <li>● Touchpoints training is a requirement of the DULCE family specialists.</li> <li>● Can be confusing how to navigate who offers what, workforce need to be cross-trained</li> <li>● Having one curriculum would be beneficial so programs have same language and foundation</li> <li>● Helpful to be able to choose the right approach</li> </ul> <p><b>Are there any gaps, funding issues, access issues to flag for providers or policy makers?</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inconsistencies in services available across the state. Families need to travel from one region to another to access services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Child care, health care, any and all services -travel long distance needed</li> </ul> </li> <li>● CIS state team connections with PCAVT and FSD. Challenging to ask FSD to do something else on top of demanding jobs. Capacity issue, but Touchpoints is “burnout prevention for providers.” Workforce retention and support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parents want answers, Touchpoints trains in sitting in discomfort of not having the answers. Problem-solve together with families.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Newborn behavior observation portion of Touchpoints, funding and training needed to share this useful framework more broadly. Opportunity to cross-train with home visiting.</li> <li>● Connection with DCF shift from “mandated reporters to mandated supporters” and opportunity for Touchpoints to elevate on that shift.</li> <li>● Touchpoints funded through PDG funding, ends in 2025. All trainings have a waitlist. Needs sustainability.</li> <li>● A community of practice to keep Touchpoint at the forefront of practice would be awesome, and could be cross sector, peer support</li> </ul>
10:25 – 10:30	<p><b>Updates and Announcements</b></p> <p><b>ELD Meeting Thursday, Feb 13 at 10am:</b> Vermont is updating its Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP) with a focus on building stronger, more responsive systems for children and families. Your experience and perspective as an early childhood professional are crucial to making this plan effective and impactful. This is an opportunity to share what you’re seeing in the field—both the successes and the challenges—and to help shape a system that better serves families.</p> <p><b>The next COAT meeting will be Thursday, March 27 at 9am</b></p>

*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.*

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