



**Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council (BBF SAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2024 (In person)**

**SAC Members Present:** Flor Diaz Smith, Ilisa Stalberg, Erica McLaughlin, Representative Jessica Brumsted, Chris Case for Janet McLaughlin, Christy Swenson, Carol Lang-Godin, Amber Hewston, Eddie Gale, Dr. Debra Hartswick, Becca Webb, Senator Ruth Hardy, Danielle Mitchell, Kheya Ganguly for Cheryle Wilcox

**On Zoom:** Sharron Harrington, Dimitri Garder, Kiona Heath, Libby Daghlian, Courtney Fitzpatrick (DMH)

**Absent:** Cheryle Wilcox, Jessica Vintinner, Monica Ogelby, Renee Kelly, Xusana Davis

**Community Partners/Guests:** Lee Lauber, Aly Richards, Bev Boget, Janet Kilburn,

**Staff present:** Morgan Crossman, Beth Truzansky, Kate Bailey, Katie Mobbs, Anna Brouillette, Kelly Hayes, Michelle Kersey, Courtney Hillhouse, Dora Levinson, Linda Michniewicz, Valerie Wood, Darla Senecal, Tanya LaChapelle, Ali Dieng, Martha Braithwaite

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This meeting was recorded and that recording can be found here: [September 2024 State Advisory Council](#)

## **Welcome & Introductions**

### **1. Welcome, mindful moment, review agenda**

Goals for the day:

- Review and provide input on the draft 2025 Policy Recommendations of the Vermont Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network.
- Learn about how the \$2.7 million awarded to the Vermont Early Childhood Fund grantees through PDG B-5 is beginning to impact communities throughout the state.
- Build relationships among State Advisory Council members through in-person discussion and strengthen their ability to work together as a Council.
- Build alignment and collaboration across Regional Councils, the State Advisory Council, and Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan committees.

### **2. SAC General Business**

#### **a. July 2024 SAC Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the July 22, 2024, minutes was made by Jessica Brumsted, with a second from Carol Lang-Godin. There were none opposed. Ruth Hardy abstained from the vote. All members voted in favor of approving July 22, 2024 minutes.

### **3. Network Spotlight**

Michelle Kersey, VECF Grant Manager, and Valerie Wood, Early Childhood Systems Evaluator, presented on how the \$2.7 million awarded to the Vermont Early Childhood Fund grantees through PDG B-5 is beginning to impact communities throughout the state.

States across the country choose how to design their grant program, and Vermont intentionally designed an application to focus on the broad early childhood system and a broader age range (beyond 5). BBF also incorporated an anti-bias training for every grant-making team and identified which funding sources make the most sense to braid and blend funding to support communities.

### **4. 2025 Policy Recommendations of the Vermont Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network**

BBF Policy and Program Director Anna Brouillette and Policy Manager Martha Braithwaite walked through the draft recommendations and gathered feedback from council members. BBF spent a lot of time this year leading up to the policy recommendation cycle to better document and articulate what is a very qualitative process for the purpose of transparency and clarity for the BBF Network and our partners. More about the process can be found here: [Building Bright Futures - Policy Recommendations](#)

In small groups, council members discussed five focus areas through these three guiding questions: What are you excited about? What could be stronger or clearer? What is missing? Council members had the opportunity to share out reflections from the small groups, and feedback will be incorporated into the draft we hope to formally adopt at the next meeting in October.

### **5. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

**Next Meeting- Monday October 28, 2024 1:00-3:00 | [via zoom](#)**