



Building Bright Futures
 600 Blair Park, Suite 306, Williston, VT 05495
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BBF Families & Communities Committee

Thursday, April 6th @ 10:00-11:30am

Families and communities play a leading role in children’s well-being

Facilitators: Jen Fortman

Note Taker: Anna Brouillette

Parents/Caregivers: Amber Hewston, Lexi Duquette, Korinne Harvey, Annemieke Thoolen, Amey Dettmer, Melissa Wood

Organization Representatives: Dora Levinson, Nicole D’Agostino, Ali Dieng, Courtney Hillhouse, Anna Brouillette (BBF), Maria White (CIS), Renee Kelly (HS/CDD), Matthew LeFluer (Alburgh Family Clubhouse),

(14 participants/ 6 parents and 4 agencies represented)

Agenda:

This meeting has been recorded - link can be found in the minutes email

Time	Agenda Item
10:00-10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introductions & Welcome question: What are you most excited about now that it’s spring?
10:15-11:20	<p>Start Recording</p> <p>Family Needs Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review Policy Considerations ● What resonates and aligns with our conversation last time? ● Hold a vote to approve the considerations <p>Discussion -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How will these policy considerations be used and how will they impact things? ● Partnering with impacted communities - tracking and documenting steps taken to be more equitable. Build in more language re: accountability ● Delicate balance with policy considerations w/BBF as a backbone ● So much research on best practices for Kindergarten transitions ● Adopting best practices vs. developing

- I too want to highlight the state wide roll out of PAT and how it is all about kindergarten readiness. which is in home support and child care support.
- Transition with early intervention services, etc.
- The transition from early intervention to care after is a rocky one. Or at least it was for us and the help / feedback from the school was not all helpful or positive for my parental choice
- It is so hard for the school at this point to see the care or services as someone other than black and white. While life and kids needs are a lot in the gray spaces
- Every time we go to a different school district or area, it is clear that schools are struggling. Feels defeating.
- Making me think about the impact of workforce burnout (grumpy, stressed folks) on participation in services - whether it's WIC, school-related, etc. - which is something I hadn't really thought about before. I appreciate the brain tickle :)
- Services my children receive don't feel like they amount to much. They aren't receiving the education/services that I would like for them. I'm considering pulling them out of school and seeking services privately
- I can relate. My child has an IEP and doesn't seem to be helping. I had to find a tutor its crazy and not fair
- Just adding to your thoughts, I feel like I'm being pushed into PreK because it IS easier on the providers to just come and go from there as they please, serve more children at once, and not necessarily have that direct accountability that you do when answering and interacting directly with the parent.
- I can relate - that was why I originally took my kids out then when we struggled to afford and build the team they needed and deserved I felt like we had no choice but to put them back in luckily by that point we moved to school district that did have great resources and teams and we are finally seeing progress and feeling supported
- Just adding to your thoughts, I feel like I'm being pushed into PreK because it IS easier on the providers to just come and go from there as they please, serve more children at once, and not necessarily have that direct accountability that you do when answering and interacting directly with the parent.
- Concerns about tying MH services to medical ones
- Stigma associated with trauma - fear of families to discuss that in medical settings
- In mental health recommendation i would like to see the recommendation involve providing support to both the Health providers office and the in home programs. and be able to share the support. but this may be next steps

Family Needs Assessment Briefing

- We are planning a briefing in mid-May on the findings and policy considerations related to the FNA
- Let us know if you'd like to help present or plan the briefing, different roles and responsibilities available depending on your interest

11:20-11:30

Stop Recording

- Fill out hour submission form
- Open to the floor for members to share

Committee Documents:

- Membership Form: <https://forms.gle/X2GC2qLTXnbKxqY79>
- Parent Hour Submission Form: <https://forms.gle/hAp7unyA36D4Hu8PA>

Building Bright Futures News & External Links:

- BBF Facebook page - follow to keep up to date with upcoming events & shared resources
 - <https://www.facebook.com/BuildingBrightFutures>
- Learn more about the \$23 million federally funded Pre-School Development Grant (PDG) that Building Bright Futures received. <https://buildingbrightfutures.org/pdg>
 - Watch the webinar recording: <https://youtu.be/miXPLtfiOaU>
- Recording of the latest State Advisory Council Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ie9lady7yg>
- Recording of the State of Vermont's Children's Report: 2022 in Review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vsagm4ZnikE>
 - Link to the Report Document: <https://buildingbrightfutures.org/state-of-vermonts-children/>
- Recording of the BBF Regional Council Meeting from December 2022: https://youtu.be/u8zTCdedq_0

Community Resources & News:

- Vermont Family Network webinar recording: "[Finding a Summer Camp: There is a camp in New England for every camper!](#)"
 - <https://campfindervt.com/> - another great resource for camps
- [Family Support Programs](#)

Upcoming Regional Council meetings:

Region	Meeting time/month	Time	Zoom link	Facilitator/ Regional Manager
Addison	2nd Friday	10:30am-12pm	Link	Darla Senecal
Bennington	2nd wednesday	11am-12:30pm	Link	Darla Senecal
Caledonia & So. Essex	3rd Monday	1-2pm	Link	Linda Michniewicz
Central VT / Washington	2nd Friday	9-10am	Link	Ali Dieng
Chittenden	1st Thursday	2-3:30pm	Link	Ali Dieng
Franklin Grand Isle	3rd Thursday	1-2:30pm	Link	Ali Dieng
Lamoille Valley	2nd Tuesday	4-5pm	Link	Linda Michniewicz
No. Windsor & Orange	1st Wednesday	1:30-2:30 pm	Link	Courtney Hillhouse
Orleans & No. Essex	1st Monday	1-2pm	Link	Linda Michniewicz
Rutland	3rd Thursday	10:30am-12pm	Link	Darla Senecal
Southeast VT	2nd Wednesday	4-5pm	Link	Courtney Hillhouse
Springfield Area	1st Wednesday	9-10am	Link	Courtney Hillhouse

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