



VECAP Data and Evaluation Committee December 2022 Meeting Summary

The Data and Evaluation VECAP Committee is charged with creating and monitoring the data development agenda and priorities for Vermont's Early Childhood System; serving as the accountability mechanism to monitor progress toward the 4 goals of the VECAP; prioritizing the vision for, and progress towards, data integration; and serving as a primary advisor for research, data, and evaluation efforts. The committee executes this charge by convening data stewards, agency leaders, and content and evaluation experts to discuss the strategy, challenges, capacity and infrastructure in place, or needed, to consistently use evidence and high-quality data to inform policy and programs within Vermont's Early Childhood System.

The full recording from the December 2022 meeting is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-YzXHhIFNk>. The next Data and Evaluation Committee meeting will be on March 16 from 1:00-2:30. Please contact data@buildingbrightfutures.org if you would like to attend and are not already receiving notes and calendar invitations.

The December meeting included four sections: (Details below)

- 1. Agenda review and Introductions**
- 2. Data Updates**
- 3. BBF Updates**
- 4. Breakout sessions - UPK and Workforce**

Agenda Review and Introductions

- Building early childhood data collection repository
 - Have created a google form to start collecting data collection efforts across the system
 - We're going to send the PDF and would like their feedback after the new year
 - Using a google form
 - David Kelly - can we have a global MOU/inter-agency agreement in place so everyone can have access to the actual data?
 - Morgan - that's what we want to be moving towards - how can we capture and monitor without MOUs? It's not just state government putting out data
 - Dora - not necessarily about sharing data - it's about reducing survey fatigue and making sure we're not duplicating efforts
 - Clare - they did a data catalog last fall about teachers - connect with Kathryn Shields for resources?
 - Emily - this is the gold standard we would eventually love to be at - can we track who is most often requesting data from who? We can start to build network analysis to see who could benefit from each other's efforts - building evidence to the point where we need an MOU

- **Data updates in the next 30 minutes**

- Carlie - they have a very old data collection system that's difficult to work with - they just got official sign off from AHS to bring forward a new data collection system to FSD - multiyear/multimillion dollar investment (7-10 years)
 - Dave - leave space for "foreign" keys/IDs - whatever data you need to match with from other agencies - open source tools that will allow you to own the tool after
- Emily - Request - working on a deeper dive into needs assessment work using Title V finding - hone in on our minority populations specifically immigrant and new american communities/african american communities and indigenous pop - anyone have any needs assessment work that's already been done? Contacts within those communities or tips and tricks
 - Kheya - AALV USCRI intro/minority/new american are not in favor anymore - talk to equity liaison about what terms to use
- Clare - annual survey they put out on childcare and price of childcare across states - they are getting data from VT for this upcoming session
 - Doing interviews with several states in January to make sure the language they're using is appropriate
 - Under-reporting is a concern
 - Their final larger report will be coming out on the 25th with associated webinar with additional breakdowns including counties
 - Incorporating rapid survey
- Heather - at AUIC - they've been spending the year starting to onboard their programs in a database and incorporating their data into a CRM that can incorporate into other API systems - they partnered with Northern Lights
 - Would love to be a partner to make sure their system works well
 - The system they're using has a really robust training program - their staff are just wrapping up a two month training process that's affordable - they can now launch and develop and edit their own programs in their system
- Dave - staffing problems and turnover
 - They need help/improvement on TSGold data - the vendor format is very challenging and requires a lot of data two-steps - not a lot of flexibility or linking abilities
 - Would be very interested in showing dual-enrollment/early college results in students paying or borrowing less for college
- Jen - really excited about the RAND report - ordered by the legislature to investigate the cost of a future early care/education system - what is the true cost of care/how to make quality and affordable childcare accessible in VT along with proposals to pay for that
 - Due January 15th
 - They usually release a report called ACCESS - not happening this year but will come out in 2023 - waiting on workforce development data
 - Been working on two surveys on childcare needs assessment - families of color and children with specialized needs
 - Specialized needs assessment - putting some findings out during legislative session
 - Hoping to collect more info on families of color survey but they are going to put some info out during the legislative session
- Erik - CDD still working on their data system and fixing things as they go. Trying to be more responsive with data requests with this
 - They should be a lot more responsive going forward
 - Doing a lot of year end reports - including quality progress report
 - Support work for the RAND report
 - Legislature has asked them to switch to enrollment based payments - what would that cost their system to pay for the space rather than the service?

- Feds - ACF data reports - process of launching a new web based system which will give them a lot of information on demographics on who is using the financial assistance program beginning of 2023
- Kheya - We cannot assume literacy for surveys because 1 in 6 adults in US are illiterate - access/data issue

BBF updates

- Data for state of Vermont's children - this year's report more robust than last
- Vermontkidsdata.org - some new data coming in on there
- PDG Data priorities
 - Significant focus on data and continuous quality improvement and systems change - how we're thinking about collecting/analyzing/compiling evidence and data to inform decision making
 - **We'll bring the group back together after we get the grant to determine priorities**
- One of the roles of this committee is how we identify data as decision-making
 - How do we move on those priorities?
 - Building a Vermont early childhood data development agenda
 - We now have the most recent iteration of Vermont's early childhood data development agenda
 - Prototype: <https://vermontkidsdata.org/data-development-agenda/>
 - Current today's draft we're looking for them to help us build
 - We will continue to manage, monitor, update
 - Brought on discussion of the different types of data we can discuss

Breakout sessions - UPK, Workforce, and Mental Health