



Early Childhood Investment Committee  
 June 10, 2022 | 10:00 - 11:00am  
 Meeting via Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85757099655>

**Early Childhood Investment Committee**

The Early Childhood Investment committee seeks to document and monitor the investments in Vermont’s children and families. The committee is relaunching in 2022, with the intention of creating a baseline inventory of current financial investment across the early childhood system as is charged by the VIP-3 grant. The committee membership is a partnership of advocacy, community, philanthropic, and agency partners. Additionally, the committee will meet on a quarterly basis to monitor existing funding in the early childhood system in Vermont, and ensure sustainable and sufficient investments in the programs, services, and supports that serve children and families.

**Desired Outcomes**

- Review timeline and what success looks like
- Review gaps in the current early childhood spending inventory
- Brainstorm challenges and limitations for summary
- Identify next steps to get the data needed

Below Table to Be Removed/Transferred to PP Slide

Present: Anna Brouillette, Morgan Crossman, Dan Winslow (VCLF), Kim Bean (MCH), Sarah Kenney (LGK), Matt Levin (VECAA), Cheryl Wilcox (DMH), Evan Delgado (Turrell), Edie Gale (Henderson), Renee Kelly (HS), Chloe Learey (Prouty), Wendy Trafton (DVHA), Steve DeVoe (DMH), Miranda Gray (CDD), Illisa Stalberg (MCH), Megan Smeaton (DCF), Lynn Karoly and Chris Doss (RAND), Margot Holmes (PCC), Chris Case (AOE), Janet Kilburn (MCH)

Total: 21

Agency/Division	What We Have	Gaps to Fill
AOE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● List and program descriptions of key direct service and personnel related spending</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Missing most actual spending dollar amounts</li> <li>● Limitations associated with breaking down consistently for age group (under 9)</li> </ul>
DCF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Robust list of programs, spending amounts, population served, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Significant limitations with breaking down consistently for age group (under 9 - and families of young children)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program descriptions/names could be more descriptive for a more general audience</li> </ul>
ACCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List and program descriptions of relevant programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Missing some dollar amounts</li> </ul>
DMH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List and program descriptions of key direct service and personnel related spending</li> <li>Dollar amounts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No glaring gaps - check w/DMH finance team. Anything missing?</li> </ul>
DOC/Lund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kids-A-Part program information and spending information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not possible to break down by specific age group - but no real gaps</li> </ul>
MCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners are working on collecting data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't yet have data pull</li> </ul>
Medicaid/DVHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have robust information on Medicaid spending - not FY2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't yet have data pull. Unsure of capacity to do this for FY2021</li> </ul>

Time	Agenda Item
10:00 - 10:15	<p><b>Introductions &amp; Overview - Morgan</b></p> <p>Introductions: Rapid fire introductions: name, entity, role</p> <p><b>Agenda &amp; Charge of the EC Investment Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Role and responsibilities/framing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key charge of this committee is to develop and implement innovative financing strategies to improve policies, service provision and outcomes for children and families in Vermont</li> <li>The development of the EC fiscal inventory is a key first step to being able to meet that charge over the next 4 years.</li> <li>Need this committee to think and operate as a team throughout the process of developing, publishing, and continuously updating this tool over time with a key goal in identifying unique and collaborative priorities, and aligning and reducing duplication in funding and resources to support kids and families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public and private partners will have different perspectives and ideas for how to tackle this project and we'll need everyone to come together and be vulnerable and share their perspectives so we don't miss anything. The funding across all sectors is highly complex, in addition to considering how to identify and map federal, state, and private sources for kids and families.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>A few reminders about the group norms for this team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because we're asking you to operate as a unique team, we want to ask that until we've all been able to review and finalize documents for public</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>dissemination that the discussions and data presented here stay <b>confidential</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Shared vision:</b> we have a goal we're working towards as a state and this group will be instrumental in helping support progress. VECAP GOAL 4: EC system will be integrated, well-resourced, and data informed.</li> <li>○ We also want you to feel like you can celebrate <b>shared success</b>. This project is hard and complicated and we've already seen some really exciting success in being able to compile data that Anna will talk about in a bit</li> <li>○ part of working together on this is <b>assuming best intent</b>...we haven't done everything perfectly to date and we will have plenty of bumps in the process as we move forward in thinking about fiscal responsibility and managing and aligning funding dedicated to children and families in VT. This year is about developing our baseline and documenting challenges and limitations so that our workplan for the coming year will allow us to determine what processes we need to improve to reach our goals.</li> </ul>
<p>10:15 - 10:25</p>	<p><b>Goal of the EC Budget/Spending Inventory and Data Collected to Date - Anna</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reorient to Goal of EC Budget project</li> <li>- Walk through table, highlight successes. Large amounts of information collected across agencies, similar format. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are in a place where we are building on what we have. Lots of progress towards our vision. More targeted information than what is typically available to EC Stakeholders through annual budget documents.</li> <li>- Highlight some specific wins: Robust data from the DCF team, recent data pull from the MCH team.</li> <li>- Despite our silos and challenges as a state with integrated data, we are moving forward and making progress towards a vision for readily available data on early childhood related spending in Vermont, a priority and trend nationally for many states looking to strengthen their systems and make data-based policy and program decisions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>10:25 - 11:00</p>	<p><b>Discussion - Morgan launch facilitation for this section</b> Agency reflections on the process: popcorn style across the different entities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What challenges did you/your team face when pulling together the data requested for the FY21 EC Spending Inventory? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Megan S - The scope. Everything we do is for children and families. The age range (under 9) is impossible to disaggregate. Most of our programs are 0-18 or include adults. We would have to do extensive coding to break out separately, which would be way too significant of a lift to attempt to break down the data in this way.</li> <li>○ Miranda - The definitions of the funding source. Federal terminology of certain types of funding vs. how BBF or other partners are thinking about or defining funds. And the importance of pulling it the same way the next time the data is requested. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Renee (in chat): And to that point - I would think having some sort of data dictionary, for lack of a better term, would enhance the usability of the document...</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Chris Case - Really hard to tease out funding sources that are specific to pre-K. For instance, licensing supports pre-K services but also the rest of the pre-K through 12 system. Really interested in having the conversation. Valuable for us to get together and try to articulate what is working, where</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

gaps are. "A revealing conversation." We didn't want to suggest any of our current spending reflects needs. Our concern sharing the data was that we didn't want it to be framed as meeting current needs.

- Wendy - Medicaid - the challenge of federal Medicaid funds being included in other agency's budgets.
- Renee - Echoing Chris's points re: fear of advertising of federal resources, etc. Vermont does not have supplemental state dollars for HS - beyond federal \$. Framing the spending within the overall budget, how much of the state budget goes towards early childhood, HS specifically, etc. Operating from place of scarcity, means folks get territorial, etc.
- Steve DeVoe - When we are looking at data, we want to make sure we are supporting readers/users with making the right comparisons, etc. RBA dashboard - moving more and more towards reporting out in that way. Age breakdowns for DMH were a bit easier than expected.

#### Collective

- What gaps do you see in what we have been able to collect?
- Are we seeing the same gaps across entities or are the gaps and challenges different?
- How do we use this baseline to think about the process moving forward?
  - Workflow
  - Coding changes, etc.
- What additional information would you like to see available as a stakeholder?
  - This is our attempt at public investments - how should we think about capturing private investments in the EC system as well?
  - Eddie - The funds that parents are paying privately for child care, health care, etc.
  - Matt - Parents \$ on child care, health care (particularly challenging to capture family cost of health care), etc. Community/private investments - housing, food banks, PCCs, etc. Big conversation to have to define the scope, what is included, etc. Lots of complexity on the private/community side as well.
  - Chloe - Lens or assumptions about our values based on spending/funding
  - Renee - One-time investments vs. ongoing investments. The work that is involved in maintaining those investments. Great deal of capacity required to ensure that programs (eg HS) continue to be funded. We've evolved in our thinking re: prevention work and investing younger. In 2013 - majority of EC funding went towards K-3, would/will we see a shift in updated budgets. Having a list of what we spend is one really important piece - tracking outcomes, ensuring accountability, etc. is another layer.
    - Janet (in chat) - Appreciate your idea Renee and emphasizing need for upstream, prevention funding for prenatal to three programs
  - Eddie (in chat): My only comment is regarding communications and presentation of the data: (1) being able to describe the purpose and value add of this process to all partners involved in the work and (2) expanding accessibility to the data in a form/format that is useful and non-intimidating.
  - Margot: Echo importance of prevention work. Providing context/comparison of what prevention work costs the state vs. what downstream services are costing the state. Demonstrate value.
  - Sarah: And I also second Evan's point about making the data accessible for those of us who don't excel in reading spreadsheets! (see what I did there? ;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What next steps would our committee like to take to mitigate these gaps over the next year?</li></ul>
11:00	Adjourn