



Building Bright Futures

600 Blair Park, Suite 306, Williston, VT 05495

802-876-5010 | buildingbrightfutures.org

BBF Families & Communities Committee

Thursday, February 1, 2024 10:00-11:30 am

VECAP Goal 2: Families and communities play a leading role in children's well-being

By providing parents and caregivers with opportunities to bring forward thoughts and concerns, and to partner in systems conversations and decision-making processes, families become leaders in designing a responsive system that works for them.

Facilitators: Jen Fortman, Sarah Morrison

Note Taker: Tanya LaChapelle

Parents/Caregivers: Jen Fortman, Laura Young, Korinne Harvey, Jocelyn Emilo, Sarah Morrison

Organization Representatives:) Dora Levinson, Jenn Shollmeyer, Anna Brouillette, Tanya LaChapelle, Courtney Hillhouse, Ali Dieng (BBF), Heather Niquette (PCAVT), Rex Butt (LGK)

(13 participants/ 5 parents and 3 agencies represented)

Meeting Recording: [February Daytime Meeting Recording](#)

Agenda:

Time	Agenda Item
10:00-10:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introductions & Welcome Question: What's your favorite winter activity? Can be indoors or outdoors.
10:10-10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● BBF Data Team:Dora Levinson and Jenn Schollmeyer<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Overview Of the State of Vermont's Children Report: Published once per year as a report to the legislature on the state of Vermont's young children. It includes over 100 indicators as well as profiles for each region of the state. You can request a hard copy of the report here.○ You can view a recording of the State of Vermont's Children Briefing○ Role of the data and evaluation committee: 1 of the 7 VT Early Childhood Action Plan Committees (like the Families & communities Committee) The committee convenes many partners who work to build an early childhood system that is integrated, well-resourced and data-informed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of the early childhood data portal: a tool for policymakers and early childhood partners to access high-quality, up-to-date data on Vermont's children ○ Monitoring the Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan: The data and evaluation teams collect and publish several resources to monitor and evaluate the early childhood system. This includes "the data numbers" and stories elevated across the BBF network. Monitoring and evaluation is how we can tell if things are working the way in which they were intended to work and if there are changes to make. ● Resource Links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State of Vermont's Children ○ VermontKidsData.org ○ 2024 Policy Recommendations ○ BBF Act 76 Monitoring ○ Child development Division's Implementation Committee ○ Universal Pre K Implementation Committee: Korinne Harvey sits in one of the two parent representative seats ○ Act 76 Funding Info - Department of Taxes ● Have questions? Email our data team: jschollmeyer@buildingbrightfutures.org or dlevinson@buildingbrightfutures.org ●
10:50-11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mission Statement has been updated to following version based on member and partner feedback: <i>The families and communities committee empowers families to participate in designing collaborative early childhood systems that represent the diverse needs of all families in Vermont. We prioritize and elevate parent and caregiver voices while strengthening connections, providing leadership development opportunities, and offering mutual support by building a statewide community.</i>
11:15-11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State Advisory Council (SAC): Parent Representative Update: Amber Hewston has been nominated to fill the open parent seat on the SAC. Nominations will be presented at the February SAC meeting on 2/26 ● This blog went out to our network this week celebrating your leadership! Thank you! ● Upcoming meetings schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tuesday, 2/13 Evening Meeting: Peer to peer connections and support. Bring your thoughts, current events, updates. If you attended the January learning session bring your take-aways to share. Or, maybe listen to this NPR podcast about self-care and bring your thoughts: "This is what "real self-care" looks like" ○ Thursday, March 7 Daytime Meeting ● Fill out hour submission form ● Open to the floor for members to share

Let's Grow Kids: Child Care Advocacy Fellowship:

- Let's Grow Kids is currently recruiting for Child Care Advocacy Fellows for the 2024 legislative session and beyond.

The Fellowship is a 9 month leadership program that will build advocacy and campaign skills in child care champions and connect changemakers across the state.

Please consider applying and/or nominating a community leader for this exciting and impactful leadership opportunity. Applications are due February 9th.

Informational session: <https://www.mobilize.us/vtchildcarecampaign/event/597465/>

Apply here by February 9: <http://letsgrowkids.org/applyCCAF>

Nominate here: <http://letsgrowkids.org/nominateCCAF>

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Free Advocacy Session Hosted by Brazelton Touchpoints Center:

- [Learning to Advocate for Children and Families](#): Follow link to learn more and register for 3 free sessions on 2/27/24, 3/12/24, 3/26/24

Parenting Wellness Resources:

- [15 Self-Care Strategies for Parents \(verywellfamily.com\)](#)
- [Why Self-Care is Essential to Parenting - Child Mind Institute](#)
- [Parental self-care and self-compassion - Emerging Minds](#)

Committee Documents:

- Membership Form: <https://forms.gle/X2GC2qLTXnbKxqY79>
- Parent Hour Submission Form: <https://forms.gle/hAp7unyA36D4Hu8PA>
- August Training: [Advocacy: Sharing Your Story to Create Change](#)
 - Parent training recorded version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7iPuwc2u6s>
- 2022 Family Needs Assessment:
 - Report: <https://vermontkidsdata.org/2022-family-needs-assessment/>
 - Briefing Recording: [Family Needs Assessment Briefing](#)

Upcoming Learning Opportunities and Events:

- Help Me Grow National Forum: <https://helpmegrownational.org/our-affiliate-network/annual-forum/>

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>
- To receive the BBF newsletter sign up here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/oucvso3/BBF>
- Recording of the latest State Advisory Council Meeting:
 - [October State Advisory Council Recording](#)
 - State Advisory Council Meetings are open to the public. To receive monthly announcements and registration for State Advisory Council meetings please sign up for the BBF newsletter above.

- The State Advisory Council (SAC) formally endorsed the Policy Recommendations of the Vermont Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network for 2024:
 - [2024 Policy Recommendations](#)
 - [2024 Policy Playbook](#): The playbook explains what the recommendations mean, why they matter, and some of the ways they can be put into action.
- Learn more about the \$23 million federally funded Preschool Development Grant (PDG) that Building Bright Futures received. <https://buildingbrightfutures.org/pdg>
 - Watch the webinar recording: <https://youtu.be/miXPLtfiOaU>
- Recording: [The State of Vermonts Children: 2022 Year in Review Briefing](#)
 - Link to the Report Document: <https://buildingbrightfutures.org/state-of-vermonts-children/>

Community Resources & News:

- **Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAVT):** [Family Support Programs](#) PCAVT offers ongoing free virtual parent education classes and support groups.

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	Kelly Hayes
Chittenden	1st Thursday	2-3:30pm	Link	Ali Dieng
Franklin Grand Isle	3rd Thursday	1-2:30pm	Link	Ali Dieng
Lamoille Valley	2nd Tuesday	1-2pm	Link	Kelly Hayes
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

Ali Dieng - adieng@buildingbrightfutures.org

Courtney Hillhouse - chillhouse@buildingbrightfutures.org

Darla Senecal - dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org

Kelly Hayes - khayes@buildingbrightfutures.org

Linda Michniewicz - lmichniewicz@buildingbrightfutures.org