



**Building Bright Futures**  
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**BBF Families & Communities Committee**  
**Thursday, March 7, 2024 10:00-11:30 am**

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

**F&CC Mission Statement:** 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.

**Facilitators:** Jen Fortman, Sarah Morrison

**Note Taker:** Tanya LaChapelle

**Parents/Caregivers:** Laura Young, Korinne Harvey, Sarah Morrison, Jen Fortman, Jocelyn Emilo, Amber Hewston, Kylie McLane, Tara Neary (Clemens),

**Organization Representatives:** Sarah Kenney, Rex Butt (LGK), Kate Steber, Sara Amadon (Child Trends), Anna Brouillette, Courtney Hillhouse, Tanya LaChapelle, Ali Dieng (BBF), Heather Niquette (PCAVT), Teresa Haskins (AOE), Patty Gottesmands (Child Trends)

(19 participants/ 8 parents and 5 agencies represented)

Meeting Recording: <https://youtu.be/h1QHb8eoDAI>

**Agenda:**

Time	Agenda Item
10:00-10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions &amp; Welcome Question: What will you do to bring yourself joy in the days ahead? What or who makes you happy? What is your favorite time of day?</li></ul>
10:20-11:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building Bright Futures and the Child Development Division are partnering with the <b>Child Trends research group</b> to study the impacts of the child care law that passed last year (Act 76) and its investments. A key part of the upcoming research includes Child Trends conducting parent/family focus groups to gather information about family experience under the new Child Care Financial Assistance guidelines such as if families are paying less for child care and which families are accessing assistance. Child Trends is consulting with the Families &amp; Communities Committee</li></ul>

	to ensure that the focus group materials are accessible for parent and caregiver participants. Child Trends will provide an overview of the work and guide our group through a feedback session.
11:15-11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New Membership Form: <a href="#">Join the F&amp;CC Network Form</a></li> <li>● Upcoming meetings schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">March 12 Evening Meeting at 8pm</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">April 4 Daytime Meeting at 10am</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Fill out <a href="#">hour submission form</a></li> <li>● Open to the floor for members to share</li> </ul>

### Parenting Wellness Resources:

- [15 Self-Care Strategies for Parents \(verywellfamily.com\)](#)
- [Why Self-Care is Essential to Parenting - Child Mind Institute](#)

### Committee Documents:

- Membership Form: [Join the F&CC Network Form](#)
- 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/>
- **The Vermont Kindergarten Conference: For Early Educators and Administrators** [Registration](#) is now open for the Vermont Kindergarten Conference! The conference will take place at the Doubletree in South Burlington on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.
- **2024 Early Childhood Day at the Legislature:** Hosted by the VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance. April 10, 2024. The day includes learning sessions on key legislative issues, priorities and opportunities for advocacy development. Learn more and [register here](#).

### 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:

- [February 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 Vermont's 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.
- **VSAC College funding** - Learn about VSAC-assisted grants for adult Vermonters who do not yet have a bachelor's degree and who are interested in pursuing post-secondary education or training programs. Contact: Harka Khadka, [khadka@vsac.org](mailto:khadka@vsac.org), 802-598-6626 or [Schedule a free appt](#)
- **Red Cross Support:** Received a message from the American Red Cross that you may be eligible for flood relief support? Call them back at 1-800-RED-CROSS to see if you are eligible for up to \$1,200 in assistance

### Upcoming Regional Council meetings:

Region	Meeting time/month	Time	Zoom link	Facilitator/ Regional Manager
Addison	2nd Friday	10:30am-12pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Darla Senecal
Bennington	2nd wednesday	11am-12:30pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Darla Senecal
Caledonia & So. Essex	3rd Monday	1-2pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Linda Michniewicz
Central VT / Washington	2nd Friday	9-10am	<a href="#">Link</a>	Kelly Hayes
Chittenden	1st Thursday	2-3:30pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Ali Dieng

Franklin Grand Isle	3rd Thursday	1-2:30pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Ali Dieng
Lamoille Valley	2nd Tuesday	1-2pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Kelly Hayes
No. Windsor & Orange	1st Wednesday	1:30-2:30 pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Courtney Hillhouse
Orleans & No. Essex	1st Monday	1-2pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Linda Michniewicz
Rutland	3rd Thursday	10:30am-12pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Darla Senecal
Southeast VT	2nd Wednesday	4-5pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Courtney Hillhouse
Springfield Area	1st Wednesday	9-10am	<a href="#">Link</a>	Courtney Hillhouse

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#### Breakout Room #2 Notes (Amber Hewston, Ali Dieng, Laura Young, Anna Brouillette)

- Often ask “was it easy or was it hard” - do you want that subjective response? Do you want to encourage folks to unpack more.
- Do you want to collect more data specifically about who might have helped them apply for CCFAP
- In follow-up prompts re: how they heard about CCFAP - make sure it is more inclusive (beyond child care providers) - EI, Reach Up Coordinator, etc.
  - Might not want to disclose this in a public space. Is there a different way to collect this info if necessary?
- Making sure for non-participating people that other reasons they don't participate re: child care availability. Available slots in regulated/qualifying programs
- Did you know there is an online application - include in non-participating - would that change your mind or barriers?
- Concerns re: 40 people for focus groups being insufficient - more targeted regional and community-based approach (New American focus group)
  - Service needs
  - Requested documents - many people start but don't finish the process
- If you haven't heard about this change raise your hand... maybe do a poll instead? Select which ones you have heard about?
  - But maybe the way they have it is more accessible?
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