



Building Bright Futures
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BBF Families & Communities Committee

Thursday, May 4th @ 10:00-11:30am

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

Facilitators: Jen Fortman, Sarah Morrison

Note Taker: Anna Brouillette, Tanya LaChapelle

Parents/Caregivers: Sarah Morrison, Jen Fortman, Amber Hewston, Korinne Harvey,

Organization Representatives: Maria White (CIS), Wendy Rice (LGK), Courtney Hillhouse, Tanya LaChapelle, Anna Brouillette, Ali Dieng (BBF), Matthew LeFluer (Alburgh Family Clubhouse), Beverly Boget (Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance)

(12 participants/ 4 parents and 5 agencies represented)

Agenda:

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

Time	Agenda Item
10:00-10:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions & Welcome question: What's your favorite childhood movie? <p>Start Recording</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introducing the new Family Leadership Coordinator - Tanya LaChapelle!
10:25-11:10	<p>Legislative updates - VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance, Beverly Boget, Public Engagement Director www.vecaa.org https://vecaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/VECAAlegagenda-8.5x11-2023.pdf</p> <p>Summary of child care bill as passed by Human Services: https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/House%20Ways%20and%20Means/Bills/S.56/W~Damien%20Leonard~S.56%20Section%20by%20Section%20as%20passed%20House%20Human%20Services~4-26-2023.pdf</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "My comment was perspective - I think people who haven't had close experience with these subsidies they're often looked down upon and people think "not out of my check! I'm struggling too!" But

in full disclosure - I'm a Reach Up family, who escaped domestic violence, after having a college degree and great work history etc, meaning I wasn't someone who expected to be a statistic. But on Reach Up I receive only \$980 a month to support myself, the home I own, and 3 full time children all under protective orders and no child support. These bills need to pass. My family is sinking and many others like us."

- There is a lot of amazing legislation for children and values and I can't underscore enough the role of parent advocacy. Contact your representatives and tell them how legislation can help you. Thank your legislators if they are doing well and ask for action if more needs to be done.
- Representatives receive a lot of email at this time, you can call the Sergeant of Arms, give your name, town you reside in and your ask and it will be shared with Representative.
- (802) 828-2228 Sergeant at Arms
- If you'd like to contact your legislators about the childcare bill, specifically here is a link for an easy fill form. Personalized messages are best if you have time to update it.
<https://actions.letsgrowkids.org/a/child-care-bill-moving-through-house-help-us-keep-momentum-going?ms=field>
- Is there a way to be persistent without sending too many messages to my representative or Sergeant at Arms?
- Beverly responded that in general, legislators are open to hearing from their community members. If an issue impacts your life, they need to hear your story.
- What happens to bills that are introduced but not finished this year. Those bills will be reintroduced in the upcoming year.
- Thank you for working on the Diaper Bank, it brings network connections to communities.
- Information about the Diaper Bank:
<https://champlainvalley.jl.org/diaper-bank/>
- Diaper Banks have worked with 85 organizations statewide and provided over 2.4 million diapers to families. 1 in 3 families statewide has diaper needs - this is an important health and equity issue for children.
- Heard there was a proposal that funding for food shelves and food banks is being cut?
- There are significant changes happening due to end of pandemic funding
- What is the governor's position on the child care bill? Beverly's understanding is that the governor wants to increase child care funding using existing funding streams, not add a new tax or funding stream.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● And if he does veto it, does there appear to be enough support to overturn the veto? ● Beverly pointed out that the evolution of the child care bill is a great example of citizen advocacy, child care providers spoke to their legislators and changed the direction of the bill ● I met with my legislators at early childhood day and my representatives seemed to be strongly in support of the bill. Should I continue to reach out to them, or should we be focusing on the representatives who do not seem to be supporting the bill. ● Representatives can be thanked for the work they have done, their support and they can also be encouraged to influence those who are not supporting the bill
11:10-11:20	<p>FNA Briefing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reminder May 17th 12-1pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Register here! ● Review Draft Agenda
11:20-11:30	<p>Stop Recording</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summer meetings schedule - July & August ● 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](#)
- Prevent Child Abuse VT - [Virtual Training of Facilitators in the Healthy Relationships Project](#) June 5th & 6th

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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