



**Building Bright Futures**  
600 Blair Park, Suite 306, Williston, VT 05495  
802-876-5010 | [buildingbrightfutures.org](http://buildingbrightfutures.org)

## **BBF Families & Communities Committee**

**Tuesday, May 9th @ 8:00-9:00pm**

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

**Facilitators:** Jen Fortman, Sarah Morrison

**Note Taker:** Tanya LaChapelle

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

**Organization Representatives:** Courtney Hillhouse, Tanya LaChapelle, Emilie Tennebaum

(7 participants/ 4 parents and 2 agencies represented)

### **Agenda:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
8:00-8:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions &amp; Welcome question: What's your favorite childhood movie?</li><li>• Introducing the new Family Leadership Coordinator - Tanya LaChapelle!</li></ul>
8:15-8:40	<p><b>Legislative Child Care bill updates</b> - Let's Grow Kids, Emilie Tenenbaum, Chief of External Affairs &amp; Strategy <a href="https://letsgrowkids.org/">https://letsgrowkids.org/</a></p> <p><a href="https://actions.letsgrowkids.org/a/ask-your-representatives-to-vote-yes-child-care-bill">https://actions.letsgrowkids.org/a/ask-your-representatives-to-vote-yes-child-care-bill</a></p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will the bill address the cost of child care for families and compensation for early educators.</li><li>• Is there a portion that is working towards changes to Universal PreK</li><li>• The bill does direct the establishment of a PreK delivery and access study which is being explored with an implementation study committee</li><li>• All child care programs run differently how will the cost of care be set in a way to meet the needs of a variety of program models so it doesn't become a system that raises rates</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A study is being done to address setting the cost of care, how programs set rates and how that works with family eligibility and how it is implemented across the state to meet the needs of families and care providers</li> <li>● My local representatives have shown strong support, is it important to keep contacting them during this time, or should we be contacting others instead?</li> <li>● Call Sargent of Arms, continue to call your representatives, continue to take actions, go to the statehouse, bring your children it is a big uplift to have children in the state house</li> <li>● This is exciting (possibility of current bill passing). What would be next?</li> <li>● If the bill goes to veto, a veto override session will happen over the summer, there will be work to do. LGK recognizes that this bill does not go all the way, LGK will continue to work with legislators. LGK will also be working on implementation study. LGK will work with champions and continue to look into developing policy recommendations.</li> <li>● What is the status of the family leave piece of the bill?</li> <li>● As it stands it looks like paid leave won't be pushed forward through the legislature until next year.</li> <li>● I made my first call to the Sergeant of Arms, I was nervous but I followed the form from LGK and it was easy.</li> </ul>
8:40-8:50	<p>FNA Briefing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reminder May 17th 12-1pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Register here!</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Review Draft Agenda</li> </ul>
8:50-9:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Summer meetings schedule - July &amp; August</li> <li>● Fill out <a href="#">hour submission form</a></li> <li>● Open to the floor for members to share</li> </ul>

**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](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](#)

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>	Ali Dieng
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	4-5pm	<a href="#">Link</a>	Linda Michniewicz
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

Ali Dieng - [adieng@buildingbrightfutures.org](mailto:adieng@buildingbrightfutures.org)

Courtney Hillhouse - [chillhouse@buildingbrightfutures.org](mailto:chillhouse@buildingbrightfutures.org)

Darla Senecal - [dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org](mailto:dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org)

Linda Michniewicz - [lmichniewicz@buildingbrightfutures.org](mailto:lmichniewicz@buildingbrightfutures.org)