



**Building Bright Futures**  
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**BBF Families & Communities Committee**  
**Thursday, November 2 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, Jocelyn Emilo, Korrinne Harvey, Sarah Morrison

**Organization Representatives:** Rex Butt (LGK), Kristin Warner (VBSR), Tina Zuk (AHA), Kelly Hayes (BBF), Laura Beatty (CIS), Michelle Kersey (BBF), Anna Brouillette (BBF), Stephanie Sumner (Parent Coach, Teacher), Ali Dieng (BBF), Jenn Schollmeyer (BBF), Tanya LaChapelle (BBF)

(15 participants/4 parents and 5 agencies represented)

Meeting Recording: <https://youtu.be/wZ-pr-HJDuY>

**Agenda:**

Time	Agenda Item
10:00-10:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> </ul>
10:10-10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid Leave Coalition: Kristin Warner, Public Policy Manager, Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR) &amp; Tina Zuk, American Heart Association:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overview of the paid leave bill and legislative updates                    Bill H.66: Bill to support families, Vt workforce and economy. Covers workers for up to 12 weeks of paid leave. Currently the federal leave act protects unpaid leave. Bill would be funded by a payroll tax increase. H.66 is a universal, publicly funded, insurance program.</li> <li>2. Call to action: To contact lawmakers and tell them to make paid leave a priority:  <a href="https://action.aarp.org/secure/tell-vermont-lawmakers-pass-paid-leave-0">https://action.aarp.org/secure/tell-vermont-lawmakers-pass-paid-leave-0</a>                    To support the movement join the organizing kick-off meeting on November 7th: <a href="https://www.mobilize.us/aarpvt/event/587624/">https://www.mobilize.us/aarpvt/event/587624/</a></li> <li>3. Q&amp;A</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

	<p>This bill has passed in several states including some New England states.</p> <p>Funding will happen through payroll taxes and would be collected in a paid leave insurance program. The program would be administered by the state treasurers office including application requests, approval and payment issue.</p> <p>What is the estimated cost for this to work in the state of Vermont? Costs will include start up costs and costs to maintain the fund. To learn more follow link below:  <a href="https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Publications/2023-2024-House-Bills/54333d24c4/GENERAL-368961-v1-H_66_An_act_relating_to_paid_family_and_medical_leave_insurance_As_passed_the_House.pdf">https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Publications/2023-2024-House-Bills/54333d24c4/GENERAL-368961-v1-H_66_An_act_relating_to_paid_family_and_medical_leave_insurance_As_passed_the_House.pdf</a></p> <p>Employer costs increase by 20% when there is employee turnover, this bill works to decrease employee loss with improved employee supports.</p> <p>Are there statistics from states regarding employees that have taken the paid leave, then, still leave position.</p> <p>Speaker reported not having information, rather that broadly the message received from employers is that this has improved employee retention.</p> <p>This is a resiliency policy, this strengthens supports to help all navigate disaster and emergency needs.</p>
<p>10:50-11:20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● F&amp;CC Mission Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">F&amp;CC Website with Mission</a></li> <li>○ The Families and Communities Committee strives to be made up of majority parents and caregivers, with providers in partnership, to help create an early childhood system that mirrors the diverse needs of Vermont families. 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.</li> <li>○ <i>Discussion: Could the language in the mission statement be more family friendly or accessible?</i></li> <li>○ Group discussed ways to shorten statements, increase impact with stronger, clearer language and highlighted what was most essential to communicate the committee's purpose. Comments were captured in a working document, edits will be made and shared with the committee at future meetings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>11:20-11:30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The State Advisory Council (SAC) formally endorsed the 2024 Policy Recommendations! Thank you! Links to the policy recommendation document and policy playbook in the agenda resource section.</li> <li>● Thank you for supporting the coat drive that was held at the Family Room in Burlington! The event helped more than 54 families, with about 120 young children represented in that. Families left the event with bags full of winter gear. Only 10-15% of items donated were left on tables and those items will not go to waste, they will be distributed to families who did not make it to the event and other Family Room participants. The event was a successful collaboration with support from Green Mountain Aid, Charlotte</li> </ul>

	<p>Congregational Church, Vermont Kin as Parents, BBF Chittenden Regional Council, the F&amp;CC and other volunteers!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regional Council Summit - in-person in Middlebury or remote via zoom on December 12, 2023</li> <li>● Upcoming meetings schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">F&amp;CC Evening 11/14/23</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Upcoming Training Opportunity - January 2024</li> <li>● Fill out <a href="#">hour submission form</a></li> <li>● Open to the floor for members to share</li> </ul>
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**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:**

- [Let's Grow Kids: Courage in Action Child Care Tour](#)
  - South Burlington, October 25th [Register Here](#)
  - St. Johnsbury, November 2nd [Register Here](#)
  - Stowe, November 7th [Register Here](#)
  - Wilmington, November 14th [Register Here](#)
- Help Me Grow National Forum: <https://helpmegrownational.org/our-affiliate-network/annual-forum/>

**Building Bright Futures News & External Links:**

- **4th Annual Regional Council Summit - December 12th - 9am-12pm**
  - Location: Counseling Service of Addison County, 109 Catamount Park in Middlebury
  - Hybrid in-person/virtual event featuring a keynote and Q&A with Dr. Joshua Sparrow, executive director of the [Brazelton Touchpoints Center](#), and a panel discussion with local experts.
  - [Register Here](#)
- 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** [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>	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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