



## VECAP Data and Evaluation Committee September 2022 Meeting Summary

*The Data and Evaluation VECAP Committee is charged with creating and monitoring the data development agenda and priorities for Vermont's Early Childhood System; serving as the accountability mechanism to monitor progress toward the 4 goals of the VECAP; prioritizing the vision for, and progress towards, data integration; and serving as a primary advisor for research, data, and evaluation efforts. The committee executes this charge by convening data stewards, agency leaders, and content and evaluation experts to discuss the strategy, challenges, capacity and infrastructure in place, or needed, to consistently use evidence and high-quality data to inform policy and programs within Vermont's Early Childhood System.*

The full recording from the September 2022 meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/V-FTG7OvIc>. The next Data and Evaluation Committee meeting will be on **December 15 from 1:00-2:30**. Please contact [data@buildingbrightfutures.org](mailto:data@buildingbrightfutures.org) if you would like to attend and are not already receiving notes and calendar invitations.

The September meeting included four sections: (Details below)

1. Presentation on the Head Start Needs Assessment
2. Discussion of a Data Collection Repository
3. Updates
4. Discussion and development of policy recommendations

Throughout the meeting, resources were shared with the group.

- [Annual Child Care Landscape Analysis: 2021 Supply and Quality Trends](#)
- [Catalyzing Growth: Using Data to Change Child Care](#)
- [Centering Racial Equity Throughout Data Integration](#)
- [Data Brief: Examining Perspectives of Children's Integrated Services \(CIS\) from Families Served by CIS Early Intervention](#)
- [Do No Harm Guide: Applying Equity Awareness in Data Visualization](#)
- [Indigenous Evaluation](#)
- [Moving Child Care Forward: Interoperability & Child Care](#)

1. A presentation on the **2022 Vermont Head Start and Early Head Start Needs Assessment Report** from Renee Kelly, Director of the Vermont Head Start Collaboration Office (VHSCO). The Needs Assessment and 5 Year Strategic Plan will be released later this fall.

2. A discussion and straw poll in support of a **Data Collection Repository** to increase communication and collaboration on upcoming, completed, and routine early childhood related data collection efforts as well as to reduce survey fatigue and duplication. All partners were in support of a pilot. BBF will develop a prototype to be presented at the December meeting.

3. Updates:

- Clare (Child Care Aware of America)
  - [State Landscape Profiles](#) from CCAOA have been released - There will be updates to the systems to collect this info in future years
- Kaitlin (UVM)

- Data collection is completed for early childhood professionals - report coming out in November/December
- Dave (Agency of Education)
  - HS/SLDS data collection is done for the year (almost!)
  - Output will go to BBF to become publicly available/accessible
  - November/December is incredibly busy due to EOY reporting
- Keely (Hunger Free Vermont)
  - We will be releasing the "Providing Meals in Early Childhood Settings" report in October! This report includes quantitative and qualitative data collected from 6 regional focus groups made up of early childhood programs across the state who shared information about the barriers to, and true cost of, providing meals in early childhood settings!
- Ann (Children's Integrated Services [CIS] State Team)
  - CIS - semi annual report from regions
    - ECFMH is a focus of the State CIS team within these reports
- Katie Salina (Let's Grow Kids)
  - Current data collection efforts include: Child care needs for families of color and children receiving specialized child care
  - LGK is also monitoring studies from H. 171 with a focus on family affordability, and increasing workforce compensation/pipeline
- Dora (BBF)
  - Hiring - [Data and Policy Analyst](#)
  - [Family Needs Assessment](#) - In the field until October
  - [CIS brief](#) - Released in August
  - VECF Applications are open until Oct 7 - <https://buildingbrightfutures.org/vecf/>
  - SVC requests have just been sent out
  - [Preschool Development Grant](#)
  - BBF will be sending out a request in October for demographic information from our members.

#### 4. Discussion and development of the data and evaluation related SAC policy recommendations

- The overarching recommendation is as follows:
  - *Respond to inequities in data collection and reporting in order to better represent the experiences of people of color, children with disabilities, and marginalized communities in Vermont.*
- Based on the discussion during and after the meeting, the following DRAFT recommendations were presented to the SAC on Monday, September 26. ([The full slate of recommendations is here.](#)) A final set of recommendations will be voted on during the October 24 SAC meeting.

#### **Respond to inequities in data collection and reporting in order to better represent and understand the intersectional experiences of people of color, children with disabilities, and other marginalized communities in Vermont.**

- Develop a statewide strategy to gather demographic information which allows people to self-identify in an authentic and appropriate manner while meeting federal demographic reporting requirements.
- Value qualitative data. When the small population size of a group necessitates the suppression of their quantitative data, utilize qualitative data collection to ensure that everyone is counted.
- Secure sustained funding to support high quality data through compensation for direct service providers to collect and report data

- Partner with impacted communities throughout the data cycle to ensure that marginalized communities, in particular, have ownership of their experiences and are empowered to advocate for, and make decisions on behalf of themselves.
- To enable Vermont to execute the above recommendations, secure sustained funding for additional personnel to increase capacity with a specific focus on equitable data.

There were 22 partners in attendance representing 16 organizations, agencies, or stakeholder groups.