



Building Bright Futures
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BBF Families & Communities Committee
Thursday, September 7th @ 10:00-11:30am

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, Laura Young, Korinne Harvey, Annemieke Thoolen

Organization Representatives: Sarah Kenney (LGK), Anna Brouillette and Tanya LaChapelle (BBF), Katy Jones (Head start), Rex Butt (LGK)

(11 participants/ 6 parents and 3 agencies represented)

Agenda:

Time	Agenda Item
10:00-10:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introductions & Welcome question: What are your child(children’s) favorite lunch box snacks?
10:10-10:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● August Meeting Recap: The group discussed who we are, what we do and what topics are rising to the top of our priorities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The F&CC is committed to creating a space where families can be involved in decision making and elevate concerns, gaps and barriers with system leaders. One way this is accomplished is to co-create policy recommendations that will be endorsed by the State Advisory Council and highlighted in the yearly State of Vermont’s Young Children Report. The recommendations are strategies to advance the goals of the VT Early Childhood Action plan. Recommendations from the F&CC relate to Goal #2 in the action plan: Families and Communities play a leading role in children’s well being. ● Last Year’s Policy Recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members of legislatively mandated bodies must include members with lived experience. 2. Utilize the findings of the Family Needs Assessment to inform policy and decision making related to young children and their families 3. Provide commensurate compensation for families participating in engagement, leadership, or feedback opportunities in order to recognize and honor the time and expertise that parents and caregivers contribute.

- **Examples of how above policy recommendations guided improved practices:**

1. Input from families about their experiences with CIS/Early Intervention was collected and published with policy considerations in a BBF data brief.
2. BBF published the 2022 Family Needs Assessment
3. H.217 includes two compensated family representatives on the Prekindergarten Implementation Committee.

- **Draft 2024 Policy Recommendation Final Review**

- Review draft policy recommendations:

Renewed Policy Recommendation (2022): Guidance for Legislatively Managed Bodies

- With the help of community and family input, develop and enact a formal guidance/protocol for naming membership when creating new legislatively mandated bodies (study sections, councils, task forces). A list of potential members should include representatives with lived experience in those groups. This guidance should also include resources and best practices for holding accessible meetings that are welcoming and inclusive for community and family representatives.

Renewed Policy Recommendation (2022): Leveraging the Findings from the Families Needs Assessment

- Utilize the findings of the 2022 Vermont Early Childhood Family Needs Assessment and future Family Needs Assessment projects or data collection efforts from the Families and Communities Committee to inform program implementation and policy and decision-making.

Invest in Statewide Family Leadership Training Opportunities

- Invest in statewide family leadership training opportunities to prepare and support parents and caregivers with serving on boards, commissions, etc. In order to be effect in supporting the leadership development of families with lived experiences that will inform policy and decision making, these opportunities must be free of charge, compensate parents/caregivers for their time, and outreach and admissions must prioritize groups underrepresented in existing Vermont family leadership circles including BIPOC parents/caregivers, LGBTQ+ families, and families with special health care needs and disabilities.
 - Reflections: What resonates with you? What is missing? What language needs clarification?
 - Are you comfortable moving these recommendations forward for State Advisory Council endorsement? If not, what feels uncomfortable?
 - The SAC will review the draft recommendations at the September SAC meeting. Following that meeting the recommendations will go through one more edit process before being presented at the October SAC meeting and endorsed through a voting process. SAC meetings are open to the public, please let us know if you are interested in attending and we will share the meeting link.
- Discussion:
 - Renewed recommendations are recommendations from previous years that are being moved forward to continue development,

	<p>commitment and strength of strategies used to support the recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recommendation #1 Guidance for legislatively mandated bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First recommendation is the heartbeat of this committee. When this committee was first starting meeting it was heavy in service providers and so many parents have come on board since then making it full of people with direct experience. Decisions made that affect parents lives should have parent leadership. Thrilled about this one. ○ The exciting piece about the development of this committee is seeing parent leadership being developed. ○ How do we know how this (recommendation #1) might be implemented? ○ Steps forward on recommendation #1: create and distribute a “memo” to state leaders to create an outline of best practices. Legislation would need to be created that sparks legislators to create this guidance which would make lived experience voice integral in all mandated study/policy committees ○ Appreciate the call out to outlining best practices that are welcoming and inclusive, so important. ○ Communicating with legislators or people who are higher up is intimidating. This type of level setting will pave the way, push towards involvement, it’s a growing process this recommendation helps that. Also, these committee meetings, the advocacy training are helping to decrease the intimidation experience ○ Language in recommendation could be more aggressive, “bodies must include members...” ○ Sarah from LGK, Legislative leadership has opportunity to push this forward <p>Recommendation #2: Leverage findings of FNA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As a committee how can we better connect with our regional councils? How could we use the regional council space to elevate FCC work like the FNA ● This is a very broad recommendation, is there a way to narrow to a more specific recommendation? What is the clear ask? <p>Recommendation #3: Statewide Family Leadership Training Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Love it ● Like the way it resonates ● It’s long and wordy, could it be shortened to be more impactful? ● Full support of this. ● Jen’s trip to a national training venue was super impactful, being able to learn from other states, we are sharing with others, seeing other successes! ● Add transportation costs to compensation ● Love this one! Such a great opportunity to learn and grow ● Remove barriers but also promote that parents are valued! ● I like how nicely connected these recommendations are, they are powerful together ● Would “current lived experience” be better wording?
10:40-11:10	<p>Review of F&CC Membership Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● F&CC member expectations ● Membership efforts in the months ahead ● Yearly Membership Survey Coming Soon <p>Discussions:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many parent child centers are starting parent advisory groups, how can we connect to other groups? Are there parents sitting on those that may be ready to connect to this group too? • How to engage with regional councils? • I appreciate attending both FCC and the regional council because I can share ideas/voice back and forth and I learn from both spaces. • Recruit from within, get current members to ask others to join, invite them in •
11:10-11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming meetings schedule -F&CC Thursday, October 5 and Tuesday, October 10 • BBF Family Photography Project: BBF is launching a family photography project to collect family photos to use in BBF communications such as direct mail, website content, print and reports. An application for families interested in having photos taken will be released soon. Participating families will receive digital copies of photos taken. More to come soon! • Successful parent advocacy training hosted in August. If you missed it here's a recorded version of the session: Advocacy: Sharing Your Story to Create Change • Fill out hour submission form: PA hour submission form has been adjusted for training opportunities, you will need to enter your first and last name rather than choose your name from a drop down. * Remember to round up to ½ hour when submitting time. • Upcoming training opportunities listed in resources below. Opportunities offered outside of BBF will be considered for compensation, please contact Tanya with your interest. Also, please share opportunities you hear about or happening in your community with us! • Open to the floor for members to share

Committee Documents:

- Membership Form: <https://forms.gle/X2GC2qLTXnbKxqY79>
- Parent Hour Submission Form: <https://forms.gle/hAp7unyA36D4Hu8PA>
- Family Needs Assessment: <https://vermontkidsdata.org/2022-family-needs-assessment/>
- [Advocacy: Sharing Your Story to Create Change](#) parent training recorded version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7iPuwc2u6s>

Upcoming Learning Opportunities and Events:

- Vermont Early Childhood Grand Rounds Seminar **on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 12:30 p.m.** This panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Morgan Crossman, will feature national experts Dr. Iheoma Iruka, Carlise King, and Dr. Shantel Meek discussing equity-focused early childhood data efforts. [Grand Rounds Zoom Registration](#)
- Hanen More Than Words parent training program beginning in September 2023. The More Than Words™ program provides parents of young children with Autism Spectrum

Disorder (ASD) with practical tools to help their children communicate. If you are interested contact Tanya for more information.

- Parenting While Rising to Child Developmental Challenges: A Family to Family Real Talk Conversation Series: September 25, October 23, November 6, December 4&18, 2023 from 3-4pm presented by the Brazelton Touchpoints Center:
<https://www.brazeltontouchpoints.org/family-talk/child-developmental-challenges/>
- Help Me Grow National Forum:
<https://helpmegrownational.org/our-affiliate-network/annual-forum/>

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>
- 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=m-T69cGvP4o&list=PLZ0Uz1Fkr8Xlm3t_hjTV5ULz_j0YDEXISk&index=4&t=3s
- State Advisory Council Meetings are Open to the Public to register for the meetings visit this page:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlc-irjltEtKRgT80gZNHnCO8dcEyy7dR#/registration>
- 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/>

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	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	Kelly Hayes
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	Kelly Hayes
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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