



EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference

Commissioners present:

Kellie Campbell, Nancy Brooks

Commissioners absent:

Advisors present:

Jen Horowitz of Let's Grow Kids

Charlie Gliserman of Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance

Staff present:

Hannah Lane

Presiding:

Kellie Campbell

Recording: Hannah Lane

Called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Moving forward with a series of one-pagers. Related to child care issues.

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes

Postponed due to lack of quorum.

b) Brainstorming priorities for the upcoming year

Building Bright Futures:

Just finalizing VT's early childhood needs assessment, webinar a few months ago, the report is much more comprehensive about what we know about the needs and gaps for families and kids across the state. Paired with that is that BBF is tasked with providing a strategic plan for early childhood care in Vermont. Looking to leaders in and out of the state, thinking about how we can be more collaborative. Early Childhood Action Plan.

Early childhood needs assessment - Status on children and families across a range of sectors, what do we know about the current status, how does COVID impact that, what do we have for data, what are the limitations? The report is expected in January, but data should be available in November. 160 stakeholders contributed to a survey, focus groups, reviewed reports, testimony, etc. from all their partners. Feels comprehensive.

SAC Recommendations:

Equity, System Integration, Family Leadership & Engagement, Early Childhood & Mental Health, Quality and Access, Workforce, High-Quality Data, Resources & Funding. Data is a key piece, it came up in almost every other area, as did resources & funding, and equity. Update to early childhood action plan articulates goals for Vermont.

Workforce: Funding education costs and compensation for the early childhood workforce – scholarships, loan repayment, wage supplementation. Continue to invest in and redesigning the CCFAP.

COVID Impacts on family economic stability and mental health: mitigating health and economic impacts, sustain and strengthen mental health services with flexible funding.

Chronic inequities and racism as a public health crisis: Partner with Vermont’s Racial Equity Task Force to identify and address health disparities and systemic impacts of racism. Using partners, experts.

Elevate family voice to rebuild a stronger system: increase opportunities for parents and caregivers to serve on committees, study committees, committing to ensuring children and families are in all policies. What are the key components that impact children and families?

Evolve the data system to address gaps: Restart and support Early Childhood Data Governance Council and BBF Data and Evaluation Committee. Promoting data literacy. Fully funding existing data initiatives. Create a budget that identifies financial sources dedicated to children and families, to monitor, align, leverage financial resources.

Developing Vermont’s Early Childhood Data Center.

12 regional councils that can elevate local issues up through to be addressed. 5 Early Childhood Action Plan Committees are focused on outcomes and monitor the implementation and success of the action plan. State Advisory Council that makes recommendations. The interagency coordinating team sit on the State Advisory Council, bring this back to their teams in the State.

Let’s Grow Kids – Jen Horowitz

Still in the process of developing their 2021 agenda.

Supporting the workforce, childcare affordability, CCFAP, did get a small increase for pre-school and after school, but still 5 years out of date.

Continue to push the state to invest in a strong IT & data system for the early childhood system. Need to appropriate the funding for each module. We are out of compliance with Federal Childcare Block Grant for the CCFAP.

Vermont doesn’t have a unified data system, and different agencies use different systems. AHS is moving towards Salesforce. Theoretically, in the future, these modules will be able to talk to each other. The relationship with AOE has been stronger on the data, with a goal towards tracking longitudinal outcomes for kids. As soon as December, they will have an unduplicated cross-program count for some programs, which they are working to integrate with AOE longitudinal data systems.

VECAA – Charlie Gliserman

Just today published [legislative agenda results survey](#), they will begin to transition into 2021 Legislative Agenda, finalized January 2021. 13 issues summarized. Should have more information to share in December. Some focus areas:

Food security: Those will likely remain on the legislative agenda. Exploring how food initiatives translate into this new world, making sure kids are getting food where they’re at throughout the week.

Kellie – Holly Moorehouse from Afterschool VT came to our last meeting. How does your work intersect?

Jen – Alliance & BBF, convening, bringing people together. Afterschool VT participates in conversation in both of those spaces, like Let’s Grow Kids does.

Morgan – BBF says both of those things are important, and they talk about early childhood as a spectrum of necessary services, and COVID and child care hubs. More closely mapping the agenda to Vermont’s Early Childhood Action Plan, so people better understand the connection between organizations, roles, etc.

Charlie – Work closely with Afterschool Vermont.

Kellie – Concern that people don't necessarily understand the ecosystem of the great work that you all do. If there are one or two documents that help explain this, which would those be? At December's Advisory Council meeting, we will be seeking input about what VCW's priorities should be and how we can best support your critical work.

c) Next conversations

Identifying the Committee's scope

Charlie – We are relying on Commission to spotlight how women and girls connect with our work, and that has been really helpful. We would very much support the continuation. Giving a presentation on how diversity, equity, and inclusion, and COVID-19 from the website, and links to resources to other publications.

Jen – Being able to share their information with us, and using our information for theirs, the dashboard has been helpful.

Adjourned at 10:01 a.m.