

News for and from the Field:

BBF Regional Council Highlights

Harnessing the power of Vermont communities to impact child and family well-being

NEWS ALERT!

BBF's **2016 HAVYCF** report was released on 1/11/17 during a packed press conference featuring Gov. Scott at the State House. Access the full report [here!](#)

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BBF REGIONAL COUNCIL LEADERS CONVENE IN RANDOLPH

On Friday, January 6, 2017, leaders from **BBF Regional Councils** came from all over the state to meet in Randolph at the Gifford Medical Center.

Leaders heard from AHS DCF Commissioner **Ken Schatz**, CDD Deputy Commissioner **Reeva Murphy** and BBF SAC Co-Chair, and **Melissa Riegel-Garrett**, the Director of Quality Enhancement, Workforce & Systems Development about the recent changes in the "Transformation of the Early Childhood

Workforce" system. AHS/CDD will be working closely with BBF Regional Councils and BBF Regional Coordinators to host four community sessions about this effort and plans for a transitional year.

Sarah Squirrel, BBF's Executive Director, then lead an interactive and dynamic process to capture input about sustaining BBF's Regional Coordinator Network, using World Café methods.

BBF Regional Council leaders agreed on the importance of meeting at least quarterly throughout the year.

Notes of the meeting will be distributed with a survey for further input.

Other BBF SAC members in attendance were: **Betsy Rathbun-Gunn**, UCS and BBF SAC Co-Chair; **Kim Coe**, LUND; **Eddie Gale**, Henderson Fund; and **Aly Richards**, Permanent Fund.

Contact **Sarah Squirrel**, at 802.876.5010 for more information.



NORTHERN WINDSOR / ORANGE MAKING TRANSPORTATION A REGIONAL PRIORITY

Members of the **Northern Windsor/Orange BBF Regional Council** regularly cite transportation barriers as one of the main reasons why children and families don't connect with services that could support them.

Our region lacks a public or private transportation system that moves caregivers and children to appointments and other services and opportunities when needed.

Reinforcing the existence and impact of this gap in infrastructure is the recent absence of interest from any transportation provider in contracting with the state to provide transportation for children eligible for Specialized Child Care (e.g. children in Protective Service, Family Support and Children with Special Health Needs - to get to and from their child care settings) in our region.

Our shared concern for the lack of reliable, accessible, and safe transportation options for our families has prompted us to prioritize this outcome identified in our Regional Action Plan and begin collecting data to support future actions.

Among the strategies being explored are: 1) Increasing collaboration with local transportation entities; and 2) Promoting the use of grass-roots ride sharing.



FOUR EARLY MTSS PILOT REGIONS MEET TO LAUNCH EFFORT

"Systems. It's the backbone of success. And in the case of the Pyramid Model, it's also the backbone of successful implementation."

-Rob Corso

Leadership teams from **Addison, Franklin & Grand Isle, Orleans & Northern Essex, and the Springfield Area** met in Berlin, VT on December 4-5, 2016 to be trained in the Early MTSS Pyramid Model.

Rob Corso, the Executive Director of the Pyramid Model Consortium, with **Maureen Sullivan**, the Early

MTSS Coordinator, led this dynamic training so that teams can begin to promote social emotional learning evidence-based practices in schools and child care settings.

Lessons learned from these four pilot regions will inform the remaining eight regions, who will begin their Early MTSS work in June 2017.

Funded by the ELC-RTT Grant, the Vermont Agency of Education has provided financial support and training to BBF for these four regions to participate in the Early MTSS systems pilots.

For more information about BBF's participation in this exciting effort, contact **Sarah Squirrell** at 802.876.5010.

CENTRAL VERMONT: A FIELD REPORT

On November 4, 2016, **Steve Ames**, the Lamoille Valley BBF Regional Coordinator, also became the coordinator for the **Central Vermont Building Bright Futures Regional Council (CVTBBFRC)**. Since then, Ames, in concert with members of the CVTBBFRC,

has been working on the dynamic scene around professional development for the child care industry, and has been working to facilitate the smooth implementation of Act 166 in the region.

Exciting progress has been also made around the

establishment of the Barre Promise Community. Four dynamic collaborative projects were shared with the Committee last week. A new project is starting in Northfield as well.

Spread the word about **Dabble Day, Saturday, February 4, 2017!**



CHITTENDEN BBF REGIONAL COUNCIL COUNTERING BIAS AND HATE

The **Chittenden Building Bright Futures Regional Council** is committed to countering bias and hate in the community and providing tools to educators to create a safe and welcoming environment for children and adults to learn and work.

The December 2016 Council meeting explored how Early Childhood Leaders can actively counter hate and create a safe and inclusive work and school climate. This is in direct response to the increased reports of hateful intimidation and harassment.



Image: Burlington High School International Club students for display to show support

Beth Truzansky, BBF Chittenden Regional Coordinator has been facilitating conversations to provide Leaders with tools and demonstrate solidarity. The conversations were held at the **Chittenden BBF Regional Council**, at ACCESS (a group coordinating children and family mental health) and at the Snelling Center's Chewing on Leadership. The purpose of the conversation is to provide tools and practice for leaders, primarily white leaders, to actively counter bias and discrimination. For more info, contact **Beth Truzansky** at 802.505.1185.

ADDISON REGIONAL KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION SUMMIT—JANUARY 23

On Monday, **January 23, 2017**, 12:30 pm—3:15 pm, 65 Addison early childhood and Kindergarten teachers will meet at the Bristol American Legion for a Kindergarten Transition Summit. Supported and facilitated by the **Addison BBF Regional Council**, Addison Pre-K Partnership, Addison Northeast, Addison

Northwest and Addison Central SU's, this event will allow Addison County PreK and Kindergarten teachers to review and improve the transition from PreK to Kindergarten in the region.

Teachers will come together and make collaborative decisions about what info should follow PreK children

to Kindergarten, how teachers can communicate with each other, and best practices for transition.

TS Gold assessment info, Vermont Early Learning Standards, and K Readiness Survey info will be used to inform conversations and come to a common understanding about what readiness looks like for all.

For more information, contact **Dana Anderson** at 802.989.7769

OTHER BBF REGIONAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

A few other **BBF Regional Council** highlights to share:

- **Southeast Vermont**— holding their annual community/legislative forum on **January 30th, 12N—1:30 PM**.
- **Lamoille Valley**— eight legislators came to the Regional Council's 2016 annual legislative forum and discussed homelessness, CIS and CCFAP.
- **Caledonia/Southern Essex**— selected as a site for parent focus groups with **Addison** and **Rutland** to learn how parents chose childcare in VT.
- **Springfield Area** — continues to support the successful launch of the Bellows Falls Diaper Bank.
- **Bennington**— is part of a collaborative early literacy effort in the region promoting that each child read 1000 books before Kindergarten.
- **Rutland**—continues to prepare for the re-settlement of 100 refugee families.
- **Franklin/Grand Isle**— launches new Regional Coordinator job share pilot with NCSS.
- **Orleans/Northern Essex**— focusing on social & emotional learning to become a trauma informed community.





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Harnessing the power of Vermont communities to impact child and family well-being

Building Bright Futures, a non-profit 501 3(c) organization, with a State Advisory Council and 12 Regional Councils, serves as the backbone organization to Vermont's early childhood system. It convenes and supports cross sector public-private collaboration and systems integration to promote a unified sustainable system of early care, health and education for young children and their families.

For more information visit us at:
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GIVING TUESDAY A SUCCESS!

Working in collaboration with the **Vermont Parent Child Center (PCC) Network**, BBF raised a total of \$2,156 during its inaugural #GivingTuesday event, held on November 29, 2016. BBF provided an additional \$600 match, which provided a total of **\$2,756** for the statewide PCC Network.

#GivingTuesday is held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday to kick-off the holiday giving season and inspire people to collaborate in improving their local communities and to give back in impactful ways to the charities and causes they support.

Using the tag line, "Be a BFF for BBF", Building Bright Futures encouraged donors to support the **Vermont Parent Child Center Network**, through the individual on-line giving site GiveGab to buttress their crucial efforts to support families through the provision of gas cards, books, emergency food or utility vouchers, diapers, laundry vouchers, or annual toy drives.

Each BBF Regional Council had their own #GivingTuesday campaign where individuals contributed a donation of any size online.

BBF also worked closely with **CommonGood VT**, who championed this effort throughout the state. Due to their support, **Sarah Squirrel**, BBF's Executive Director, was interviewed by WPTZ, NBC Channel 5 about our effort.

A special thanks to **Danielle Lindley**, of the VT PCC Network, for her help during this campaign.

Thank you for your support of BBF and the Vermont Parent Child Center Network!

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 29, 2016