



**Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council (BBF SAC)
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2025 (Via Zoom)**

SAC Members Present: Ilisa Stalberg, Flor Diaz Smith, Janet McLaughlin, Cheryle Wilcox, Tammy Bates, Renee Kelly, Carlie Thibault, Senator Martine Gulick, Representative Rey Garafano, Erica McLaughlin, Sharron Harrington, Christy Swenson, Danielle Mitchell, Carol Lang-Godin, Debra Hartswick, Libby Daghlian, Eddie Gale, Kiona Heath, Dimitri Garder, Becca Webb, Amber Hewston,

Absent: Zoie Saunders, Monica Ogelby, Xusana Davis, Jessica Vintinner, Rep Jessica Brumsted, Monica Hutt (Governor's office)

Community Partners/Guests: Stephanie Carvey, Ashley Bessette, Ammie Collins, Lisa Clancy, Katrina Ellis-Ferrara, Matt Levin, Lee Lauber, Evelyn Efinger, Teresa Haskins, Sage Caballero-Acosta, Jocelyn Emilo, Kristen Dunne, LouAnn Beninati, Alyssa Mullan, Susan Pare, Jennifer Luty, Angela Goepel, Sarah Taylor, Cooper Siegel, Courtney Mckaig, Colleen Watson, Michael Warren, Sandra Graves, Carrie Wright, Beverly Boget, Anthony Jackson-Miller, Kristen Wood, Kate Fay, Jennifer Colin, Ginelle Hunter, Emily Smith, Michael Warren, Sandra Cameron, Kayla Croft

Staff present: Morgan Crossman, Beth Truzansky, Kate Bailey, Katie Mobbs, Anna Brouillette, Kelly Hayes, Michelle Kersey, Courtney Hillhouse, Dora Levinson, Linda Michniewicz, Valerie Wood, Tanya LaChapelle, Martha Braithwaite, Hannah Ossoff, Kitty Foster, Ali Dieng

This meeting was recorded and that recording can be found here:

 [January 2025 State Advisory Council](#)

Welcome & Introductions

1. Welcome, mindful moment, review agenda

2. SAC General Business

a. November 2024 SAC Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the November 4, 2024, minutes was made by Dimitri Garder, with a second from Cheryle Wilcox. There were none opposed. All members voted in favor of approving November 4, 2024 minutes.

3. Explore the State of Vermont's Children Report

- #### **a. Dora Levinson, BBF Data and Research Manager, introduced the [2024 State of Vermont's Children Report](#).** This report provides Vermont's policymakers, educators, caregivers, health practitioners, business leaders, and community members with an objective, data-driven assessment of the well-being of young children and families. The report includes a profile for each of Vermont's 12 regions and the 2025 Policy Recommendations. This year's report includes over 100 contextualized indicators from

both publicly available data sources, and indicators shared or created specifically for this report from data stewards across the early childhood system. The data spotlight this year focused on Vermont's child welfare system.

- b. Meeting attendees connected in pairs to explore one chart or data point in the State of Vermont's Children report and discuss in pairs.

4. Learn about recently submitted legislative reports intended to inform early childhood policy

- a. Morgan Crossman, BBF Executive Director, spoke about BBF's strategy to use data-driven decision making and the role of the SAC to understand the legislative and political landscape this session. This strategy involves 1) grounding BBF's work in data and understanding young children's experiences with service provision alongside outcomes; 2) commitment to transparency and making this data and reporting more visible and accessible; and 3) use this data and translate it into strong policy and programmatic decisions.
- b. The SAC heard about three of many reports that have either recently been submitted to the legislature, or are about to be submitted:
 - i. [Prekindergarten Education Implementation Committee](#) (PEIC) report - Deputy Commissioner, Janet McLaughlin from the Child Development Division
 - ii. [Early Childhood Education licensing](#) Sunrise report and another on [Doula credentials](#) - Jennifer Colin, General Counsel with the Vermont Secretary of State Office of Professional Regulation
 - iii. Members of the SAC provided some brief comments about the Early Childhood Education licensing report indicating a range of opinions toward the recommendations.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting- Monday February 24, 2024 1:30-2:30 p.m. | [via zoom](#)