October 2026 State Advisory Council Agenda
Monday, October 26, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
In-person location: Bluebird Cady Hill Lodge,
Bluebird Cady Hill Lodge, 64 Trailhead Pass, Stowe, VT 05672 and Via Zoom
Register to attend in person or via Zoom

Desired Outcomes

- Review and provide input on the draft 2027 Policy Recommendations of Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network.
- Vote to endorse the AI Addendum to Vermont's Early Childhood Strategic Plan.
- Build relationships among State Advisory Council members through in-person discussion and strengthen their ability to work together as a Council.

Advance Materials

- September 2026 SAC Meeting Minutes
- Draft 2027 Policy Recommendations of Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network
- How BBF Develops Our Annual Policy Recommendations

Time	Topic
9:30–10:00 a.m.	**Arrival and Coffee**
10:00–11:40 a.m.	**Draft 2027 Policy Recommendations** BBF's Policy Team will review the draft Policy Recommendations identified by the State Advisory Council Network. The recommendations address emerging needs facing children, families, and the early childhood system and aim to move Vermont closer to the vision in the Early Childhood Strategic Plan. SAC members will work in small groups to give feedback on the drafts, assess the timeliness and actionability of each recommendation, and discuss how to strengthen their impact. The SAC will vote to endorse the final recommendations at its November 24 meeting.
11:40 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	**General Council Business** ● Roll call ● Vote: September 2026 SAC Meeting Minutes ● Vote: Nomination of Ashley Bessette for membership ● Vote: Endorsement of the AI Addendum to Vermont's Early Childhood Strategic Plan

12:00 p.m.	**Adjourn** The public, hybrid portion of the meeting ends here. SAC members will continue with a two-day strategic retreat. Members of the public are welcome to attend; please email ea.consultant@buildingbrightfutures.org for the full agenda and to help us plan.
12:00–1:00 p.m.	**Lunch**
1:00–5:00 p.m.	**Retreat Day 1** Members will deepen their understanding of their role on the Council, BBF's priorities, and fund development strategy.
Tuesday, Oct. 27 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	**Retreat Day 2** Members will learn more about Vermont's early childhood system through site visits, and about BBF's approach to monitoring the Vermont Early Childhood Strategic Plan.

Members of the State Advisory Council as of October 2026

Public Members

- Ilisa Stalberg, Vermont Department of Health, Family and Child Health Division*
- Renee Kelly, Head Start Collaboration Office*
- Janet McLaughlin, Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division*
- Laurel Omland, Department of Mental Health
- Susan Coburn, Agency of Human Services, Secretary's Office
- Erin Davis / Pat Fitzsimmons, Agency of Education
- Vacant, Agency of Commerce and Community Development

Public Non-Voting Members

- Monica Caserta Hutt, Chief Prevention Officer, Governor's Office
- Lindsay Barron, Director of Policy and Planning, Department for Children and Families, Family Services
- Nicole Tousignant, Department for Children and Families, Economic Services

Legislative Members

- Rep. Rey Garofano, Vermont House of Representatives, 2026†
- Sen. Martine Gulick, Vermont Senate, 2027

At-Large Members

- Carol Lang-Godin, Parent Child Center Network, 2029*†
- Laura Young, Parent Representative, 2028*
- Debbie Singiser, Vermont School Boards Association, 2029~
- Rebecca Webb, South Burlington School District, 2027† (Ashley Bessette nominated to complete term)
- Kiona Baez Heath, Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, 2027
- Amber Hewston, Parent Representative, 2027
- Sharron Harrington, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children, 2028
- Erica McLaughlin, Vermont Principals' Association, 2027*
- Nancy Powers, Northeast Kingdom Community Action/Head Start, 2029~
- Eddie Gale, A.D. Henderson Foundation, 2027†
- Dimitri Garder, 0x2A Consulting LLC, 2028
- Dr. Debra Hartswick, Medical Care, 2027
- Margaret Walsh, Northwestern Counseling and Support Services, 2028
- Vacant (one at-large seat)

* Executive Board member ~ Private member required by statute † Serving second term