



## Southeast Vermont Building Bright Futures

Chad Simmons, Regional Coordinator  
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### SE VT BBF Regional Council Notes

June 10, 2015, 4-6 PM; EES conference room

Attendees: Sadie, Chad, Sandy S., Kathy R., Sue G., Margaret A., Chloe L., Cynthia T., Janice S., Brian, Rosemeryl H.

#### Announcements

##### Building Bright Futures

He has received confirmation that we are good to go for the family picnic on July 16 at 5 PM at Living Memorial Park at the Kiwanis shelter. Rigani Pizza will be catering. We will talk more about outreach to get people who can't make our meetings there. We will invite legislators, but it will be low-key.

The parenting class BFF sponsored (facilitated by Janice and Brandi) ended last night. The participants were from diverse backgrounds and were a great support for each other. They talk about positive parenting, rules, behavior expectation, teaching children basic social skills, strategies to prevent challenging behavior, the importance of consistency, predictability and follow-through. The class is geared to parents of children ages 3-6. Information is sent through school mailing lists and there have been referrals from pediatricians. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> time it was offered. These parents would like a follow up in a couple of months, as did previous groups.

##### Windham Southwest Supervisory Union

The publicly funded preschool program forms are now on their website! They are moving forward. [Click Here](#) for details

##### Agency of Human Services

Monica Hutt will be the Commissioner of VT Dept of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) and Frank Reed is the interim Commissioner of the VT Dept of Mental Health (DMH).

##### United Way of Windham County

The summer food kicks off was very successful during the Strolling of the Heifers Gallery Walk; they served several hundred meals. She distributed lists of the sites; that will be updated by Hunger Free VT as things get added. Information is available from VT 2-1-1 about the closest site. They serve some combination of breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack; each site varies. Poster attached separately.

Save the Date for the Day of Caring on Saturday, September 12. They are also exploring having projects on September 11 as well, since that is a national day of service. Non-profits can send ideas for projects to UWVC (in Brattleboro and the rest of the County).



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### Youth Services & Winston Prouty

There is a focus group about folks trying to get their GED/barriers to high school completion. It will be at the Boys and Girls Club on Tuesday June 16 12.30-2.30. They are looking for people to provide childcare.

### Sandy

There is a new parenting resource calendar, via the Rockingham Public Library website. Parenting and caregiver classes will be shown there for parents and caregivers of children prenatal to age 18. [Click Here](#) to view. Contact Chad for details on how to add your information to the calendar.

### Promise Communities

The launch meetings in Bellows Falls and Brattleboro were last week. They explained the PC initiative and there will be a follow up meeting in a few weeks. Emilie will send minutes on Friday and Chad will forward them along.

### Windham Child Care Association

They are still looking for a person to drive a short bus for short people for a short time (this summer—June thru Sept 15). Everything else is in place to provide transportation. PLEASE send candidates their way.

Ryan and Robyn from Let's Grow Kids are coming to speak with anyone in the community who would like to speak to them about what they are doing next Wednesday (the 17<sup>th</sup>) at 4.30 at the Career Center.

### Windham County Safe Kids

They are going to do car seat checks at Just So Pediatrics, by appointment either, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month. They also have information about the law about smoking around children (in cars, at playgrounds, etc.). They also do checks on Saturdays at the Auto Mall by appointment; that is also where they serve people who are eligible for free car seats.

### Nurse Child Care Wellness Consultant Program

Rosemeryl shared several resources: a PowerPoint, a map of which nurse is serving which region, some fliers and information for parents, and some magnets. So far, they have 40 referrals and most of them are in Chittenden County, since December. They are hoping to get up to 400 and have a nurse available in each AHS district year round. They are working on a "hotline" for providers and a website for providers and parents.

Rosemeryl met with the Starting Points Network and Early Education Services in the last two days. She saw some very good work in our region. This program is meant as a resource and to supplement what we are already doing. They offer nurse clinical expertise to programs to answer their specific questions. They provide links to evidence-based best practice resources. The priority for many so far has been on nutrition and physical



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activities. Often, this is a tough subject because it is wrapped up with culture and stereotypes; they are hoping to have joint training and sessions with parents and providers. They have also been getting a lot of questions about green cleaning products. They try to look at the providers' strengths and go from there. Once they are there, they might notice other issues that can be addressed (such as hand washing).

Funding comes from the Early Learning Challenge grant and the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant through 2017. Funding goes to the position, not to provide financial assistance to programs/providers at this time. The program is separate from STARS and licensing and is totally voluntary.

The program is designed so that the nurse goes in and observes first to get a feel for the program. They mostly work with the providers, not the parents necessarily. It was suggested this is a great resource for addressing the health and safety needs of the providers as well as the children; nationally, some states incorporate that into the program, but we haven't yet in VT. Before they decided on what their areas of focus would be, they looked at licensing violation data to think about what would be the most influenced. It got down to basic things like diapering and hand washing because those are hard things to keep up with in busy childcare programs. The ECERS might also be helpful for the RN to look at to see which areas people are struggling with. While they are there, they talk about children having medical and/or dental homes with providers.

The content areas the nurses focus on:

- Inclusion/Exclusion policies,
- Medication administration,
- Care of children with special needs,
- Sanitation,
- Hand-washing,
- Diapering,
- Nutrition and physical activity (including breastfeeding),
- Oral health,
- Safe sleep, and
- Emergency planning and injury prevention.

They emphasized they are here to help supplement, not replace or duplicate resources that exist. Right now, it is available for free to STARS providers (any level) and for \$50/hour for non-STARS providers. She has talked about the programs to medical homes, who can also refer, as can parents. Providers can self-refer as well. They are working with Northern Lights to see if they can get professional development credits for participation.

To refer or if you have questions, call: Rosemeryl Harple, RN; Coordinator of Child Care Wellness Consultants; 802-652-2095; [rosemeryl.harple@state.vt.us](mailto:rosemeryl.harple@state.vt.us)



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(Full presentation below)

### Regional Council business

#### *Operating Principles*

The new draft was sent in advance; it was vetted by the leadership team. Chad went through the document and highlighted the substantive changes:

- Name
  - changed for consistency (this change approved in September 2014)
- Vision and mission
  - We will change it to say “prenatal to 8” instead of “0 to 8”
  - We agreed that if we want to change the vision/mission, we should do that at a separate meeting/process.
- Council structure and operations
  - Detail was added in this section
  - It was observed that the membership section is very broad; we might want to think about that in the future to make sure that we have parents, for example, or people interested in early childhood
  - The state council will be approving the Regional Council Coordinator job description this month, and the verbiage is taken from there
  - It was suggested that the sentence about Leadership Team elections be moved to the beginning of that section
  - We added that elections for the Leadership Team will correspond to the fiscal year of the fiscal agent
  - We will add a phrase to include members of the public in committee work
  - We changed the process for the budget so that it is more inclusive of the whole Council; people approved of that change
  - We added unauthorized use of the BBF name to the removal section

People approved of the changes and approved the Operating Principles with these changes.

#### *Direct Services Grant application*

Sandy went through the draft (sent ahead electronically by Chad). She explained the different line items. There is now a Direct Services Grant committee, which will help define the Parent Education Coordination portion of Sandy’s role; that job description will come to the full Council when prepared. It includes things like the calendar work, regional outreach, and identifying gaps in caregiver education/workshops. We talked about whether detail should go in this application or the report. We agreed the detail should remain in the report; many of the activities are the same. We can adjust the budget as needed through the year.



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It was noted we need to add the list of regional council members where noted. The group approved of the application with that addition.

### *Letter to BBF Executive Director*

This letter is a result of conversations with council members and the Regional Coordinator from Lamoille Valley council. Julie is aware this request is coming; this is the formal request to make the process transparent. Chad has not polled all of the regional coordinators; the hope this is would start a conversation. Chad clarified that not all communities get equitable funding and it would mean, if no funding were added, some communities would get less money. We would not see any changes until FY 2017. It was suggested that we CC the state council chair. We are really asking for transparency. The group agreed to send the letter.

### *BBF budget*

We will have spent our money down by the next meeting.

No July council meeting. Next event will be July 16<sup>th</sup>



## RN Child Care Wellness Consulting in Vermont

June 10, 2015

 VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Overview to Southeastern VT BBF Regional Council

### Purpose of Presentation

- ❑ **Increase community awareness of RN Child Care Wellness Consultants program and increase referrals to program**
- ❑ **Make one more step towards a collaborative, unified system of early childhood care and education**

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## Vermont Building Bright Futures Vision

**All Vermont children are  
healthy and successful.**

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## Where does the RN CCWC program fit?

Program addresses several “Service  
Priorities” Gaps BBF web site

**We provide evidence-based, consultative  
service to child care programs to elevate the  
standards of health and safety**

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## Blended Funding

- ❑ Federal Early Learning Challenge/Race to the Top grant-through 2017
- ❑ Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant-through 2016
- ❑ Most of Project 12 funds will go directly to the RN Child Care Wellness Consultants



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## Why Improving Health and Safety in Early Child Care Settings is Needed

Current state licensing requirements only require *minimum* health and safety requirements for compliance



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## Why Improving Health and Safety in Early Child Care Settings is Needed

STARS and  
Licensing  
Regulations  
do not  
guarantee

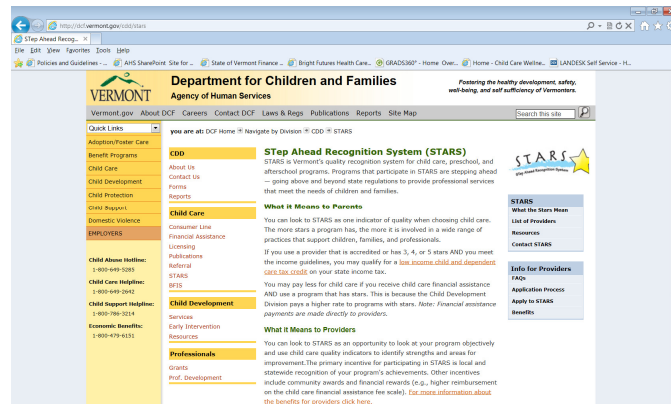
HEALTH

And

SAFETY

are fully

ADDRESSED



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## Our Team of RNs

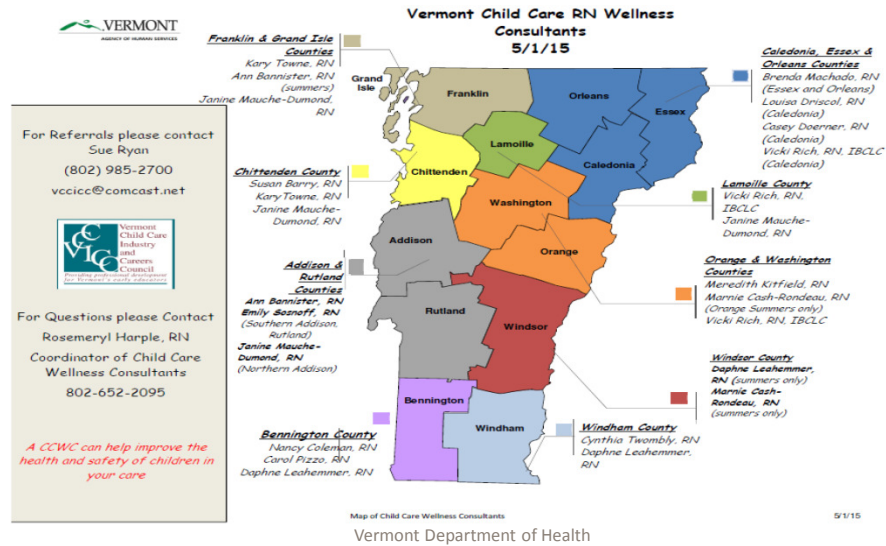
### □ Independent RN consultants



- Pediatric or maternal child health background
- Many years of school nursing experience
- Breastfeeding consultation experience
- Trained with the National Training Institute Child Health Care consultant curriculum

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## Map of Child Care Wellness RN Consultants



## What Do you think we do?



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## We

- ❑ Collaborate
- ❑ Observe
- ❑ Help with resource development and referrals
- ❑ Help with health and safety policy development
- ❑ Help with interpretation of regulations
- ❑ Help develop action plan
- ❑ Check progress

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## Content Areas

- ❑ Inclusion/Exclusion Policies (Containing Infection)
- ❑ Medication Administration
- ❑ Care of Children with Special Needs
- ❑ Sanitation
- ❑ Hand-washing
- ❑ Diapering
- ❑ Nutrition and physical activity (includes breastfeeding)
- ❑ Oral Health
- ❑ Safe Sleep
- ❑ Emergency Planning and Injury Prevention



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## Sample Visit Content



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## Story 1

**Child Care Program A has a child with severe food allergies**

- Help program develop evidence/science-based policy for children with potential severe reaction to certain foods
- Discuss individualized health plan template
- Provide resources around administration of epi-pen
- Discuss ways to eliminate potential sources in the child care environment

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## Story 2

Child Care Provider B has 3 infants under 12 months in care. They have questions about safe sleep and safe breast milk storage but they don't yet have a policy on these topics

- Instruction re: best practice around safe sleep including need for direct observation of sleeping infant at all times
- Discussion about breast milk storage and best practice guidelines handout
- Assistance with best practice safe sleep and breast feeding policies
- Suggestions around ways to have direct observation of the infants

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## Story 3

Child Care Provider C has had a child in the program recently diagnosed with pin worms and asks what she should do. Her inclusion/exclusion policy does not deal specifically with pin worms and the child doesn't have a fever and is able to play actively

- Using CFOC 3<sup>rd</sup> ed and Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools the RN CCWC is able to give the provider overview about treatment of pinworms and interventions that should be taken to protect remaining children

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## Story 4

Child Care Provider D has no space to change the babies in her care. She is currently using a changing pad with flannel cover on her granite kitchen top, “away from food preparation area”.

- RN CCWC worked with program to identify inexpensive alternative to use to change baby
- Encouraged director to utilize non-porous baby changer, along with cleaning/disinfecting after each use
- RN CCWC noticed children went directly to play room after playing outside and suggested ways to incorporate line-up to bathroom for hand-washing before entering play area

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## Story 5

Child Care Provider E is receiving funding from the federal CACFP for on site meals. She has questions about portion sizes, developmentally appropriate foods, how to promote vegetables (but says they are too costly and picky eaters).

- RN CCWC works with program reviewing the meal patterns by age group, helping the provider with suggestions, including USDA cookbook
- RN CCWC later sends provider USDA suggestions about purchasing vegetables less expensively and how to incorporate into meals/snacks
- RN CCWC discusses ways to engage picky eaters and shares evidence-based resources
- RN CCWC suggests another meeting with her CACFP mentor

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## RN Child Care Wellness Consultants Can:

- ❑ **Improve health and safety practices**
- ❑ **Assist Child Care Providers with health and safety policy development and implementation**
- ❑ **Build understanding and mutually respectful relationships across health, child care and education sectors**
- ❑ **Facilitate and follow-up on appropriate referrals to CIS Specialized Child Care Coordinators**



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## RN Child Care Wellness Consultants Can:

- ❑ **Help child care programs advance STARS ratings and/or seek and maintain NAEYC accreditation**
- ❑ **Promote evidence-based Universal Development Screening**

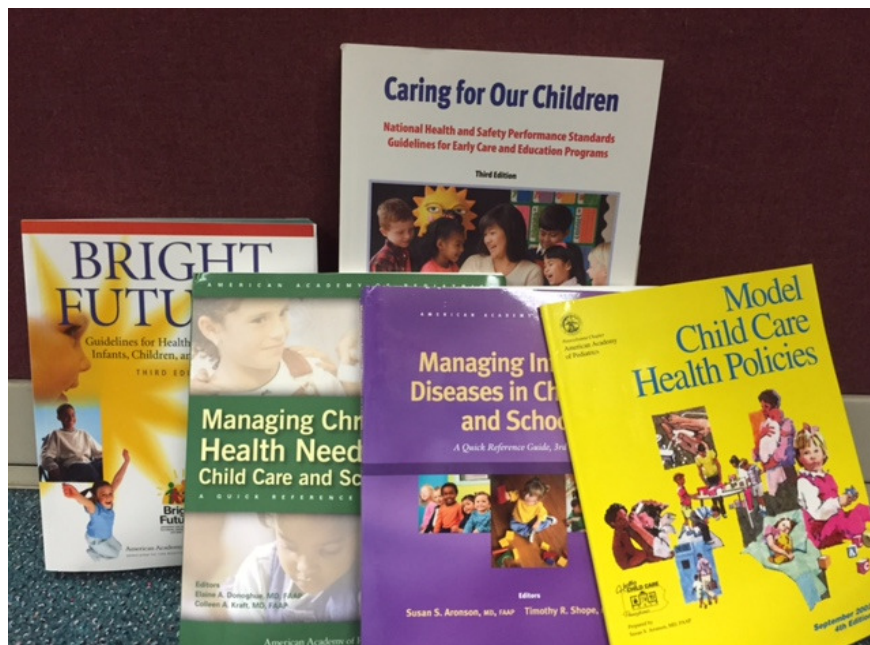


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## RN Child Care Wellness Consultants Can:

- ❑ **Improve outcomes for children and families by:**
  - ❑ **Offering training and consultation to child care programs on health and safety topics**
  - ❑ **Increasing # of children participating in medical and dental homes**
  - ❑ **Increasing participation in existing food and nutrition programs**
  - ❑ **Increasing immunization survey response rates**

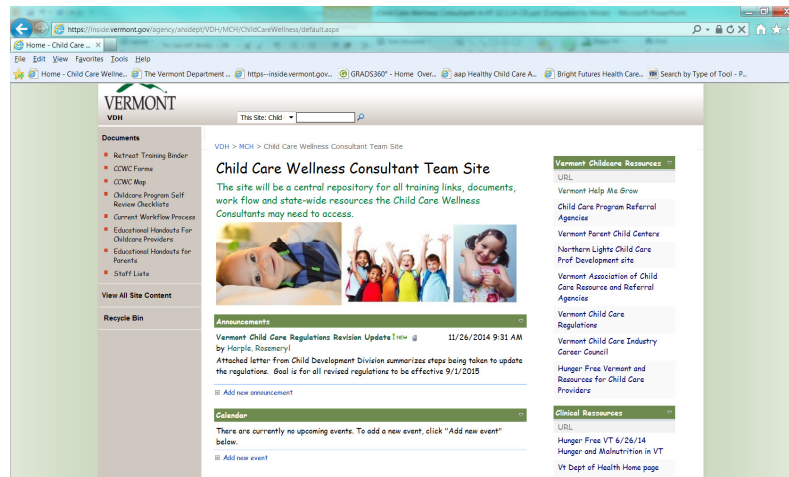
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## New SharePoint Web Site



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## Current Status

41+ referrals received  
since December 1



Requests from Child  
Care Programs for help  
with:

- ☐ Emergency planning
- ☐ Nutrition and Physical Activity
- ☐ Accident and Injury Prevention
- ☐ Medication Administration
- ☐ Sanitation and Disinfection
- ☐ Developmental Screening
- ☐ Infectious Disease
- ☐ Immunization Survey

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## Where We are Going (short term)

- ❑ Marketing program to various stakeholders
- ❑ Increasing referrals to program
- ❑ Offering Medication Administration Training to Child Care Provider staff (regionally)



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## Where We are Going (long term)

- ❑ Develop warm line capability to address child care provider questions
- ❑ Fine tune care coordination efforts for children with special needs across sectors
- ❑ Combine resources with the Help Me Grow program and its soon to be launched call center
- ❑ Outreach non-licensed, non-registered child care programs
- ❑ Building health and safety website for child care programs and parents- stay tuned
- ❑ **Find and secure long term funding**

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## Referral Process

- ❑ **Free to Child Care Programs with STARS**
- ❑ **\$50/hour for non-STARS programs**
- ❑ **Focus on health and safety issues**

Before 7/1/15

Refer Child Care Program to:

Vermont Child Care Industry Careers Council

(802) 985-2700 [vccicc@comcast.net](mailto:vccicc@comcast.net)

After 7/1/15 Refer Child Care Program to:

Rosemeryl Harple, Coordinator, RN CCWC program

802-652-2095 [rosemeryl.harple@state.vt.us](mailto:rosemeryl.harple@state.vt.us)

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## Feedback on Program so far

*Wonderful resource to have available. Wish a lot of the information she brought that was geared toward home child care providers was made known to providers...*

\*\*\*\*\*

*I learned about many resources that I was not aware of that are going to be very beneficial to our program....*

\*\*\*\*\*

*We have clarified our illness policy and created a vaccination policy that is clear that having an exemption may prolong the length of time their child would need to stay out of the program should an outbreak occur....*

\*\*\*\*\*

*I have new ideas to include in our nutrition policy and will be updating it soon....*

\*\*\*\*\*

*I have an evacuation plan in place and have requested an action plan for a child in my care with asthma.....*

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## Questions?

For more information about the program, please contact:

*Rosemeryl Harple, BSN, CCM, RN*

*VDH/MCH W(802)652-2095, C (802)238-5014*

*Email: [Rosemeryl.Harple@state.vt.us](mailto:Rosemeryl.Harple@state.vt.us)*



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