

Vital Communities ECE Initiative

Workforce and Program Models Workgroup

November 21, 2022

12:30-2:00 pm

From Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88144914668?pwd=VkJXWjQ3bVhhVUZLeFB2N2Z0YzRyUT09>

Meeting ID: 881 4491 4668

Passcode: 383671

Dial in: 1 646 931 3860

[Minutes from November 3, 2022](#) (Facilities and Program Models)

[Minutes from November 7, 2022](#) (Workforce Recruitment and Retention)

Next meeting: Monday, December 5, 2022 ****Rebecca Holcomb****

12:30-2:00 pm via Zoom

Agenda

- 1) Introductions and Icebreaker
- 2) [Charter](#) -North Stars and goals
- 3) PHN Legislative Roundtable update (Amy and Emilie)
- 4) [Rubric](#) for scoring applications for Lebanon ECE concept RFI (Shaun)
- 5) Status of locating modular classroom (Amy)
- 6) Making connections and building support (Alison C.)
- 7) Other Business
- 8) *****Rebecca Holcomb meeting on Dec 5th- all ECE members will be invited*****



Shout out to Tammie H. for making this a reality!

Notes

PHN Legislative Roundtable update (Amy and Emilie)

Updates on the Legislative Roundtable from Steering Committee Meeting 11/18/22

Amy: The Family Resource Center was represented as well as Erin Barnett from DH, Angie Leduc, Holly Gasper and Emily Tenenbaum. The legislators moved from table to table and then we would do our spiel. Talked with Tasha and Monique Priestley (previously served on the VC board) on the Vermont side. On the NH side, they didn't stop at the table.

Rebecca Holcombe (the newly elected representative for Windsor-Orange 2) is coming to the Workforce and Facilities meeting on December 5. Everyone is welcome to attend. Rebecca wants to know what are the key things that we are focusing on that she can get the word out about? The December 2 meeting with be used to draft that conversation.

She was previously the Secretary of Education for VT. An area of contention with Gov. Scott was around the governance of early care and education, whether the Child Development Division of the Department for Children and Families of the agency of Human Services is going to be in charge or whether the Department of Education is going to be in charge.

The other thing is that the town of Norwich, a couple of years back, decided in their town plan that they would have a chapter on childcare. She led the committee that did that research and wrote that report and wrote that chapter for the Norwich town plan.

That was a result of an assessment from the state that recommended that child care or early childhood lives under one entity. In NH there is the same issue, they went through an entire strategic planning process and came up with the same kind of realization, and created the Council for Thriving Children which is a partnership between DOA and DHHS, neither of which truly represents early childhood only policy, regulatory, and distributing the Child Development Block Grant funds.

Rubric for scoring applications for Lebanon ECE concept RFI (Shaun)

The RFI is out for a partner to work with the city to construct a 200 capacity childcare facility on city property. The rubric is going to be finalized tomorrow. Currently I have 4 vendors who applied. We will evaluate the proposals and conduct interviews.

Status of locating modular classroom (Amy)

Working with Shaun to get zoning and support from the city.

Making connections and building support (Alison C.)

Doing business support for existing providers and newcomers but a real focus on the existing centers because there is a lot of capacity to expand if they can work better as a business. Primary concern for providers is recruitment of staff which Let's Grow Kids and ECEA are working on quite extensively.

From this group's point of view there was this other piece we could take up around business support. Part of the goal was not to duplicate or try to create programs of our own but to rely on programs out there.

Vermont and NH are going about this differently. The Vermont initiatives are much more centralized and coordinated. The NH initiatives are more spontaneous, happening in different regions and areas.

Allison has created a spreadsheet organized by organization and types of business support. Business support needs to have sector specific knowledge and be sensitive to business realities. In rural communities having enough density of providers to get specialists is really hard. You either have the business expertise or the early care expertise but rarely you have both. This is also a highly regulated industry which needs to be understood. This is particularly challenging here because we are bi-state, providers share staff, and the regulatory environment is not identical.

On the VT side Let's Grow Kids are putting a legislative agenda for a business development center in this sector.

Coming up

- Rebecca Holcombe will be present on December 5
- Damian will update on December 19 on the Orange County Center Initiative by GMEDC
- Let's think about what we want Advocacy to advocate for come January