



Vital Communities ECE Initiative

Workforce and Program Models Workgroup

Monday, July 17, 2023

12:30-2:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82235625665?pwd=VGViZWFMb1p4UkdmNjl2elg1N1lFZz09>

Meeting ID: 822 3562 5665

Passcode: 113726

[Minutes from the last meeting](#)

Vital Communities Early Childhood Initiative

North Star: The goal of the Early Childhood Education Initiative is to facilitate an increase in high-quality, accessible, and affordable early childhood education in the bi-state Upper Valley area.

Agenda

- Introductions and Icebreaker
- Update from Shaun M. Lebanon ECE facility
- Update from Damian Orange County ECE facility
- Update from Amy B. ECE training and PD opportunities
- Update on food resources work
- Update on inviting Cinde W. and Joe Kenney to two different workgroup meetings in August/September (Shaun and Amy)
- Update on legislative efforts- Has a schedule been created?
- Other Business

Next meeting: Monday, July 31, 2023, 12:30 pm

Meeting Notes

In Attendance

Anna Hubbard

Joanne Roberts

Shaun Mulholland

Amy Brooks

Ruth Brisson

Jackie Cowell

Update from Shaun M. Lebanon ECE facility

- Design review meeting in July – pivotal meeting so we can start seeking more donors
- Received \$40,000 from the county for engineering
- Brought on an energy advisor which will help us apply for tax breaks based on energy
 - We will have solar on the roof, not the ground to maximize playground space
 - Natural playground design

Update from Damian Orange County ECE facility

Damian could not make it to this meeting. We will get an update at the next one!

Update from Amy B. - ECE training and PD opportunities

- Received just under \$700 from NH Workinvest to put toward the next cohort – launching this summer
- ECEA now has a professional development committee
 - Meeting the request of directors that are more interpersonal
- Trying to understand more about trainings for administrators
- Second cohort, accelerated program started the last week in June
 - 5 people are enrolled
- Fall will start in early September
 - Got their fingerprints from NH very quickly
 - Waiting for fingerprints from VT
- Purchased emergency dehumidifiers for centers dealing with flooding
 - Couch Family Foundation is funding that

Ruth Brisson:

- Woodstock is dealing with not just boil water warnings, but do not even drink
 - Ruth Brisson's center is closed, can't even wash dishes
 - Policy is to keep billing and paying staff
 - If this keeps on longer, they might have to rethink that

Update on food resources work

- Anna has connected with many organizations
- Meeting with CACFP contact from NH to see how we can support her work
- Starting to unpack survey results next week

Update on inviting Cinde W. and Joe Kenney to two different workgroup meetings in August/September (Shaun and Amy)

- Cinde is working on a campaign, so she will not get to a meetings
- We want to make sure they understand where we are coming from and what we are working on – beating the drum
- Shaun will reach out and try for the end of August

Update on legislative efforts- Has a schedule been created?

- House committee is going to retain the bill – it will be picked up in the next session
- Get ahold of the House special committee – they have been doing field hearings, the next one is in Manchester, this might be a good time to bring this up
- Amy: Someone should contact Ross Berry (Chair of special house committee)
 - Joanne will reach out with the Vital Communities arm
 - We should be advocating for a piece of legislation sooner rather than later!
 - Bring this to the Advocacy Committee on July 28th

Other Business

Jackie Cowell talking about their Wednesday meetings

- Watching Sb 237 which turned into folding into the budget
- Monitoring the different policies in NH
 - The rate the state pays for childcare assistance will go to 75%
 - That rate will be started in the next couple of weeks!
 - 85% of state median income
 - What percentage of income is eligible for assistance
 - Jumping from 55,000 to 85,000 a year
 - Will probably change in January
 - Tuition to Enrollment-based billing
 - That will likely start in January
 - Workforce money – the \$15 million
 - When the 85% state median income starts, they will cap the cost share at 7%
 - We don't pay more than 7% of gross income on childcare
 - Will likely happen in January
 - TANFF has a reserve they will tap into

Bridgewater ECE center is expanding

- Received grant from Woodstock...
- Trying to hire enough staff to make that happen
- She might have to do it in stages as she gets staff

North Star

Workforce and Program Models North Star:

- Identify, develop, and evaluate strategies that promote bi-state sustainability supporting the retention and recruitment of early childhood educators.

Action Steps and Metrics:

1. Build public awareness of ECE as a profession
 - 1) What did we do and how much of it did we do? (numbers)
 - Working with Advocacy to attend/participate in a

meaningful way with legislation

- Fall and spring events (WOYC)
- Podcasts -Advocacy -formal messaging campaign “The bedrock of the granite state”
- ECE-shared services and programs ELNH come to a WF meeting; including food discounts; grant funding; ‘acquire for hire’; telehealth; plan for the fall

- 2) How well did we do it? (usually in percentages) and
- 3) Is anybody better off because of it? (who?)

2. Connect early childhood educators to networks providing business-related technical assistance and capital access to optimize their business operations, lower operation costs, and increase their capacity

- 1) What did we do and how much of it did we do? (numbers)
 - RFP DHHS- Childcare business improvement
 - NHLI
 - NH Community Loan Fund- ECE program
 - VT Community Loan Fund
 - USDA low interest loans– put together a comprehensive list
 - Building Bright Funds hubs (Courtney Hillhouse could update)

- 2) How well did we do it? (usually in percentages) and
- 3) Is anybody better off because of it? (who?)

3. Identify and support opportunities for cooperative procurement of services

- 1) What did we do and how much of it did we do? (numbers)
 - Food support-creative ideas and solutions
 - Electricity, insurance, supplies, shared HR, IT (CCA Global), administrative supports–National work Opportunities Exchange; NHLI; Louise Stoney-ECE shared services platform– Providers might not be ready for this yet. Shared education and knowledge for a potential future conversation. Proactive. More accessible for new centers
 - 2) How well did we do it? (usually in percentages) and
 - 3) Is anybody better off because of it? (who?)
4. Identify means to decrease start up costs for new ECE professionals (home-based and centers)
- 1) What did we do and how much of it did we do? (numbers)
 - Business incubator- resources and information; funding resources, capital
 - Guide for new startups for new centers-manual for VT and NH
 - Bringing It Home Project- collaborate to accelerate the pace for our regions; share models
 - (Let's Grow Kids: ECEA UV Home-Grown Effort-match funding for home-based VT and NH); Centers; VT Business Hub; NH regional)
 - Licensing
 - Funding is a barrier
 - Director role is lacking
 - 85% capacity to be profitable
 - NH Loan Fund-model CDFI Community

Development Financial Institutions-mission based lenders focus on ECE; National network of these organizations-Draw on this expertise

- Community Loan Fund- VT and NH resources
- Wonderschool- VT/NH-licensing, policies, tuition cost, business model, collections, HR/family boundaries
- Access to minigrants for start-up costs

- 2) How well did we do it? (usually in percentages) and
- 3) Is anybody better off because of it? (who?)

5. ECEA information for VT and NH ECE professionals shared with VC website

- 1) What did we do and how much of it did we do? (numbers)
- 2) How well did we do it? (usually in percentages) and
- 3) Is anybody better off because of it? (who?)

6. Inform the Advocacy Committee of opportunities to support ECE efforts particularly in regard to VT Child Care and NH bills including SB 221. Connect with Senator Prentiss and other influencers.

- 1) What did we do and how much of it did we do? (numbers)
- 2) How well did we do it? (usually in percentages) and
- 3) Is anybody better off because of it? (who?)