



Vital Communities ECE Initiative

Advocacy Workgroup Meeting

Friday, December 8, 2023

9:30-10:30 am

Here are the [minutes](#) from the last meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89715113682?pwd=MzMvUjlWT3IrWUtLRGF3emxyV29ZZz09>

Meeting ID: 897 1511 3682

Passcode: 594577

## **ECE Initiative Purpose of the Project- 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.

## **Advocacy Workgroup North Star:**

- Advocate for policies and investments to support the increase of high-quality, accessible, and affordable early childhood education in the bi-state Upper Valley by supporting ECE campaigns and engaging a broad range of stakeholders.

## **Agenda**

- Introductions and Icebreaker
- Update from Mom's Rising
- Other VT/NH legislative/advocacy updates?
- Strategic plan for Week of the Young Child April 6-12, 2024
  - What activities/events should we plan to be a part of in NH and VT
  - What activities/events should we plan individually
- Other business
- Next meeting Friday, December 22, 2023 9:30 a.m.

## **Meeting Notes**

### **In Attendance**

Anna Hubbard

Joanne Roberts

MacKenzie Nicholson

Tammie Hazlett

Amy Brooks

Sara Kobylenski

## **Update from Mom's Rising**

- LSR (leg. service request?) have started turning into actual bills
  - There are quite a few related to childcare
    - Believe there is a confidential preK bill
    - Childcare workforce fund

- Ratios
- Childcare providers to buy into the state's insurance program
- Categorical eligibility for childcare scholarship
- Prioritize your scholarship if you are an ECE provider, experiencing homelessness, etc.
- Childcare tax credit bill for offsetting the cost of childcare for their employees
- Some bills in NH from 2023 that were retained in committee
  - There are two bills relating to PreK that we might want to send to a study to see what PreK could look like in NH
    - Would be helpful to have some stakeholder thoughts on that
    - MacKenzie will send us language to push out to our audiences

### **Other VT/NH legislative/advocacy updates?**

- Getting the word out about scholarships
  - Is that something VC could do? Or is it on a bigger level?
  - There is funding for family resource centers to take the lead on this
  - We will keep our eyes on it!

### **Strategic plan for Week of the Young Child (April 6-12, 2024)**

- Walk 10 laps around the green
  - 8 seems like a better number
  - Every time they complete a lap, they get different colored ribbon or something to signify a lap
- A band playing on the stage
- Shaun reads the proclamation
- Tents for activities, etc.
  - Start looking into how much they cost
- Food and artisan vendors
- Face painting
- Hopefully get some press from the Valley News
- Have the hospital get involved with car seat checks
- Kids love fire trucks! The fire department is right there.
  - Shaun could talk about losing a firefighter due to lack of childcare
  - Bike safety with DH (DH Injury prevention) (Bike and Trike)
- 10am-12am seems to be the best time of day for an event like this
- Need to make sure this isn't too big of a lift
  - Joanne, Anna, and K2 are a team

## **Other business**

- How to support the data group?
  - They've talked a lot about true cost of care and connecting with UNH
  - We don't want multiple people working on the same task
- SBA (small business alliance) in Claremont
  - Steve F. with the state department was there
  - As well as an ECE provider
  - He was talking about microgrants and reached out to Joanne Roberts about connecting
  - The Alliance?
- Make a diagram of who is who in the ECE world
  - There is a lot happening, but it's not necessarily collaborative
- LGK (partnering with the ECEA) asked Tammie to be the leader of the concept of the business hub
  - Take away the pressure of business for ECE providers

**Second Friday in January is next meeting date (January 12<sup>th</sup>)**