



(WTOP News image)

Vital Communities ECE Initiative

Workforce and Program Models Workgroup

Monday, November 6, 2023

12:30-2:00 pm

Here are the [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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82235625665?pwd=VGViZWVmL1p4UkdmNjl2elg1N1lFZz09>

Meeting ID: 822 3562 5665

Passcode: 113726

Agenda

- Introductions and Icebreaker
- Career Cultivator update (Amy)
- Early Learning Center of the Upper Valley update (Shaun)
- Update on Orange County ECE Center (Damian)
- ECE Food Resources update (Anna)
- PHC Bi-State Legislative meeting update (Shaun and Joanne)
- Other Business
 - Upcoming Couch Family ECE Funding Session
 - Upcoming Graduation for Career Cultivator participants
 - Upcoming LGK 's Act 76 Gathering (See below to RSVP)
- Meetings bi-weekly or monthly with bi-weekly as needed?
- Next meeting: Monday, November 20th 12:30 pm

Meeting Notes

In Attendance

Amy Brooks

Shaun Mulholland

Damian DiNicola

Joanne Roberts

Anna Hubbard

Faye Grearson

Julie McConnell

Career Cultivator update (Amy)

- Upcoming Graduation for Career Cultivator participants
- [One-pager update](#)

Early Learning Center of the Upper Valley update (Shaun)

- Having/planning meetings for the capital campaign and we will see how they go!

Update on Orange County ECE Center (Damian)

- Finally got the grant agreement with LGK (congressional funds)
- Got the USDA loan is also wrapped up
- Still having an issue with the VT funding
 - Can't provide legal documents like the lease until construction is underway
 - Everytime we check off boxes, something else comes up to do before they can release the money

ECE Food Resources update (Anna)

- Working on laying out a report on our findings
- Categorizing our options that came out of the survey by what Vital Communities can do and what are the most popular needs
- Developing a system for focus groups of providers to dig deeper into what they need

PHC Bi-State Legislative meeting update (Shaun and Joanne)

- Back and forth between VT and NH
- University of VT has a satellite location in Norwich that does ECE
 - Joanne will follow up with them for a conversation
- VT's scholarship level is 575% of the poverty level, which is higher than our 300%
 - NH isn't doing much to advertise it, though

Other Business

- Meetings bi-weekly or monthly with bi-weekly as needed?
 - Starting in December, we will meet the second Monday of each month
- Upcoming Couch Family ECE Funding Session
- Upcoming LGK's Act 76 Gathering

LGK's Gathering RSVP Information:

The Vermont Child Care Campaign is hosting a lunch in the Upper Valley as part of the Let's Grow Kids Courage in Action Child Care Tour and we hope you can join us for this exciting event.

This tour stop will be a celebration of Act 76 (the 2023 Child Care Bill) and an opportunity to visit with other child care champs in the area. Because of child care supporters like you, we've never been closer to fully solving our state's child care crisis. Join us in celebrating the positive change already happening statewide because of Act 76!

The lunch will take place on **Monday, November 13 at 12 PM at The Hartford Library!** You'll get an update on Vermont's Child Care Campaign, enjoy a light lunch and drinks, connect with child care champions in your area, and learn how to stay involved during the campaign's next steps. Please RSVP:

[RSVP HERE](#)