

Donna Bailey, Anneliese Masi and Sara Hebert of

Addison County Parent Child Center testimony for

House Transportation Committee

March 27, 2024

Hello, I am Donna Bailey and I am the Director of the Addison County Parent Child Center (ACPCC) and a member of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network (Vt PCCN). With me today are two parent ACPCC board members and members of ACPCC Learning Together Program. I have written to this committee and have those letters with me today. I also have a survey done. By the Vt PCCN. Anneliese and Sara can talk to you about the reality of living in a rural community without a car.

Anneliese:

Public transportation is a bare minimum there are some routes that work well but they are not a solution for most life situations. There are odd times and hard for work and family life. Busses are hard for kids. Getting to the bus stop and being on the bus. The timing and having to carry groceries is tricky. And we are in Middlebury, where there are the most availability of any town in the county. There are not Uber or taxis. Medicaid rides only work in certain conditions – 48 hours notice is recommended. Children cannot ride along if it is not their appointment. Walking is difficult – there are rough sidewalks if sidewalks at all.

Sara:

Outreach workers/staff give us rides to appointments and food shopping.

PCC does what they can to get us there – 8 out of 10 times, they help. Also, the outreach worker comes into doctor appointments to help advocate and they also help us get food and other essentials.

Vans from the PCC – get us and our children to the PCC and to other childcare programs. We would not have the attendance we do if we did not have the van!

Having the vans let us get to programs and to access parts of Vermont I cannot on my own – children and parents can go on Field trips and access places we cannot without transportation.

Donna :

Vermont is like a state park but not everyone has a pass. Access to events and natural places is a part of living in Vermont, if you can get there. We work hard to help families have access to people, places and things to do with their families.

share survey results

Past letter to committee share?