

Rep. Mitzi Johnson
Madame Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Vermont House of Representatives

March 10, 2015

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am here testifying today to clarify where PCAV's revenues come from and what programs will be eliminated or reduced if PCAV is cut \$503,000.

We receive funding for Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention in a braided grant from DCF, Family Services, DAIL, DOH, and DMH, which total \$88,875. We use an evidence based model in our hospital programs and reach 1/3 to half of high schools students annually. **If the proposed cut is approved this program will be eliminated.**

DCF: \$36,250

DOH: \$14,625

DAIL: \$31,000

DMH:\$ 7,000

*The Nurturing Parenting Programs and Circle of Parents Support Groups are funded in another braided grant by DCF Family Services, ADAP, and the Department of Corrections and totals: \$266,371. These programs are researched, evidence based programs.

We provided 64 programs last year serving 2100 at risk parents and children. Twenty of these programs are in prisons and in collaboration with Probation and Parole. All facilitators are trained in substance abuse identification, intervention and referral. **Vermont's Family Courts, DCF and Probation and Parole Offices depend on these programs for their clients. If we are cut, 75% of this program will be eliminated.**

DCF:\$186,916

DOC:\$ 65,455

ADAP:\$15,000

*Child sexual abuse prevention for young children is funded by DCF Child Development Division and DCF Family Services in a third braided grant for \$117,000. We train over 1200 early childhood educators, caregivers, Advocacy Center staff, foster parents, social workers, GALs, mental health professionals, home visitors and mentors. We are part of the early childhood STARS system. PCAV provides a series of 8 well evaluated trainings

and a mentoring program effecting over 35,000 young children annually. In 2014 we provided 146 trainings. **If the cut goes through, this program will be eliminated.**

DCF, (FS/CDD): \$117,000

*PCAV receives \$30,000 for the SAFE-T Program, preventing child sexual abuse for middle school students, parents and educators. We work with 50 to 60 schools each year, and served over 5000 students in 2014. We train whole faculties and staff in child sexual abuse prevention and have opportunities for parents to learn as well. **If the cut goes through, 20 fewer schools will receive training, support and co-facilitation that meet ACT 1 requirements.**

DCF, (FS): \$30,000.

*You can see from this chart we receive 51% of our Budget through State sources. The cut proposed represents 42% of our budget. Other State grants are: \$35,000, from Community Based Family Support Programs, for Nurturing Parents Programs; \$40,000 to \$136,000, for TECHNICOOL from the Internet Crimes Against Children's Task Force; and Children's Trust Fund grants of anywhere from \$6,000 to \$15,000.

Our Budget is 1,219,194, and is 100,000, less than last year. PCAV has no endowment, no slush fund to draw from to make up a shortfall. We work diligently to raise private funds with special events, gifts from individuals, corporate donors, foundations and United Ways. We have 18 employees, 180 volunteers leading our parent education and support programs and over 400 partnerships with hospitals, parent child centers, schools, childcare centers, prisons, rehab centers, child care homes, Advocacy Centers, Domestic Violence Programs, district offices of state AHS departments, and other family serving organizations, many local, statewide collaborations, etc.

We lowered our budget in order to recover from a shortfall we had in 2014. When we put our 2014 Budget together we relied upon conversations we had with various Department heads in State Government about the funds they were going to request for us. We included a conservative 33% of the amounts discussed. None of these funds were provided. We struggled to overcome this shortfall but found ourselves with a \$64,000, deficit. In response we have eliminated a child sexual abuse manager/trainer position, decreased Nurturing Parenting Programs by 10, decreased the number of schools we provide training, co-facilitation and mentoring to for child sexual abuse prevention by 10, limited the number of miles staff drive and lowered the staff training budget.

Our benefit system for employees is modest and helps keep our budget conservative; we provide no retirement, we cover 75% of an employee's health insurance and 50% for family members. We provide no dental or any other benefit other than mileage reimbursement. Our administrative overhead is 2.2%. We have Supported Employment,

Reach-Up and VT Associates staff, assisting with administrative tasks. We pay little or nothing for our 5 outreach offices around the State. We work hard to raise private funds to support our programs.

According to the VCAB Report regarding the deaths of the two toddlers as a result of child abuse, *"Vermont must invest in proven prevention strategies such as research based parent education and support programs. Prevention efforts should be focused on children and families with whom DCF is working, but also be available to all families as an effective approach to preventing serious physical injury and child fatality."* (R-2 5F, page 18) This is exactly what our programs do and why. Many years ago DCF and other departments of state government began to fund PCAV's programs and in fact came to us and asked us to research best practices and begin SBS Prevention and Internet Safety specifically.

State Government is wisely embracing the ACE studies and prevention as the means to decrease the likelihood of ACEs, to save lives, reduce health care costs of all kinds and judicial and corrections systems costs, cutting prevention programs that work is not consistent with policy and direction.

In 2014 we directly supported and trained 19,560 children, youth, parents, educators, and other child and family serving professionals. Our work is trauma informed, developmentally targeted and is both victim and victimizer prevention focused. **All our work, every workshop, every school program, every parenting class and support group is evaluated using RBA, Strengthening Families and other exemplary scientific tools and practices approved by top researchers in our field.**

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these facts and for understanding the consequences for children and families of defunding PCAV's prevention programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda E Johnson

Executive Director