

**DRAFT Minutes of Vermont Child Poverty Council
Meeting of Full Council
Room 11**

Meeting Date: 8/18/16, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Members in Attendance

Representative Jill Krowinski, Co-Chair
Representative Diane Lanpher, Co-Chair
Representative David Sharpe
Hal Cohen, Secretary, Agency of Human Services
Carlen Finn, Voices for Vermont's Children
Dr. Amy Fowler, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Education
Jeff Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association
Karen Lafayette, Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council
Jean Murray, Vermont Legal Aid
Annie Noonan, Commissioner, Department of Labor
Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families

Members Absent

Senator Claire Ayer
Senator John Campbell
Senator Ann Cummings
Dr. Breena Holmes, Department of Health

Other Participants

Jessica Blackman, Agency of Administration
Virginia Burley, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Faye Conte, Hunger Free Vermont
Pam Dalley, Department of Children and Families
Lindsay DesLauriers, Vermont Early Childhood Alliance
Karin Edwards, Agency of Education
Robyn Freedner-Maguire, Let's Grow Kids
Peter Hirschfeld, Vermont Public Radio
Jen Horwitz, Let's Grow Kids
Lee Lauber, Central Vermont Building Bright Futures
Holly Morehouse, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Sonja Raymond, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children
Melissa Riegel-Garrett, Department of Children and Families
Barbara Russ, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Amy Shollenberger, Action Circles and Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Liz Sortino, Action Circles and Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Jan Walker, Department of Children and Families
Katie McLinn and Marjorie Zunder, Legislative Council

Topics Discussed

- **Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care**

Michelle Fay, Associate Director, Voices for Vermont's Children, and Jessica Blackman, Agency of Education, both members of the Commission, described the Commission's progress to date.

Handouts:

[About the Blue Ribbon Commission](#)

[Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High-Quality Affordable Child Care](#)

- **Child Care in Vermont**

A panel composed of representatives from the Agency of Education and Departments of Labor and for Children and Families testified. Annie Noonan, Commissioner, Dept. of Labor, described the need for more child care options, especially for infants and toddlers, in order to support working parents and the Vermont economy. Ken Schatz, Commissioner, Dept. for Children and Families spoke about Vermont child care providers and the regulations adopted by the Dept. for Children and Families. Pay scales and training for child care workers were also discussed. Karin Edwards, Director, Student Support, Agency of Education, explained that her Agency oversees pre-kindergarten education offered in schools.

Handouts:

[Summary of Costs-Benefits of Employer Sponsored Child Care](#)

[Child Care Financial Assistance - Child Care Provider Rate Schedule - August 21, 2016](#)

[Child Care Financial Assistance Sliding Fee Scale](#)

[Memo - DCF - CDD Role in Child Care](#)

[Child Care Financial Assistance Program \(CCFAP\) Budget](#)

[Children receiving Child Care Financial Assistance Program subsidies by income and benefit level](#)

[Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance Program gets \\$1 million](#)

[Agency of Education Talking Points](#)

- **Afterschool Programs**

Holly Morehouse, Executive Director, Vermont Afterschool, Inc., described the needs of Vermont children in terms of afterschool learning and summer school programs, the complexity of child care needs outside of the school day and year, and employment opportunities in these programs.

Handouts:

[Afterschool and Summer Learning in Vermont](#)

[Investing in Vermont's Kids](#)

[Testimony](#)

- **Stalled at the Start**

Robyn Freedner-Maguire and Jen Horwitz gave an update on the June 2016 “Let’s Grow Kids” Report.

Handouts:

[Powerpoint - Let's Grow Kids, Focus on the first years](#)

[Stalled at the Start - Vermont's Child Care Challenge - An Analysis of the Supply and Demand](#)

- **Council Discussion and Next Steps**

Members suggested the following topics for future meetings:
concerns related to locating and using the best data, workforce development and accessibility of child care services, reliance on and prioritizing federal funds, Act 166 implementation and its intersection with Head Start, segregation of low income children by child care programs, needs of families and hopes for public/private partnership regarding afterschool/summer programs, insufficient Agency of Education funding/possible alternative funding for vocational education and career pathways, special education in the context of poverty, progress with adult literacy as well as career and technical education through the Agency of Education and the Departments of Commerce and of Labor, Voices for Vermont’s Children June 2016 report, and current budget pressures within the Agency of Human Services.

- **Motions** - No motions were offered.

- **Adjournment** at noon

Minutes prepared by Marjorie Zunder, Legislative Council