

Safe Babies Teams in Vermont



**ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES
WORKING GROUP**

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EASTERSEALS VERMONT

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Easterseals Vermont



- Established in Vermont on Sept 1, 1985.
- Provide services to approximately 421 Vermont children a month with 78 staff, in 9 districts through the Children and Family Services (CFS) grant.

Our CFS Family Centered Practices include:

- Family Time Coaching
- Family Support- in home Parent Education
- Facilitation of Family Safety Planning Meetings
- Facilitation of Family Group Conferences
- Family Treatment Court and Safe Babies Teams

Non CFS Services we provide:

- Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), Post Permanency, Youth Development, Intensive Family Based Services (IFBS), BARJ

Zero to Three Safe Babies Teams



- Originally piloted by the national organization “Zero to Three”
- “The program connects babies and their families with the support and services they need to promote healthy childhood development, while at the same time ensuring speedier exits from the system”.
- “Each Safe Babies Court Team is built on the vital 12 Core Components that articulate a developmentally sensitive way to respond to child maltreatment of infants and toddlers”.

• **QUOTES TAKEN FROM THE ZERO TO THREE WEBSITE**

Intent of Safe Babies



Easterseals Vermont became interested in starting Safe Babies because we are always searching for ways to evolve our best practice and serve the increased number of young children coming into custody due to the opioid crisis. Safe Babies Teams focus on:

1. Reducing trauma
2. Repairing harm
3. Establishing safe and healthy connections for babies
4. Achieving permanency more quickly

Safe Babies Court Team Approach



“The twelve Core Components contributes to the our racial equity and human dignity platform.”

Zero to Three website

Both Easterseals Vermont Safe Babies Teams incorporate all these components.



Easterseals Vermont Safe Babies Teams



Safe Babies Coordinators:

- Help participants identify and engage in services
- Create an individualized child-centered team, and organize and facilitate team meetings,
- Provide weekly support and case management to parents to more effectively utilize services in the community.

Importantly, Safe Babies ensures that parents go into court every six weeks to discuss their progress with the Judge. This allows parents to get regular judicial feedback so they clearly understand what they need to work on with their case plan.

Voices of Safe Babies Teams in Vermont



Quotes from participants of Safe Babies Teams of St. Johnsbury and Hartford.

“Safe Babies gave me hope when I lost confidence.” (parent)

“Safe Babies extended the hope and also provided a lot of in depth resources. Even when the outcome is not what we want, the parents receive good services and learn good parenting skills.” (attorney)

“The amount of support I felt as the DCF worker was unmatched by any other service. The way the role operates, takes on tasks that are so well done, timely and thoughtful.” (DCF-FSD social worker)

Voices of Safe Babies Teams in Vermont



“Everyone gets all the same information at the same time...The heart of this is collaboration and consensus.

As a result of frequent contact, we get timely outcomes. I wish we had the resources to do this on a bigger scale. The only problem is the resources... I want to do it with the whole docket. I think it’s tremendous.”

Judge Thomas Devine

Future Goals



- Spread Safe Babies Teams across Vermont to reach more children and families and reduce adverse childhood experiences.
- Strengthen and evolve our two Pilot Programs in St. Johnsbury and Hartford to meet needs of the community and evolve best practice.
- Continue data collection on Safe Babies Teams that is viable and relevant to our work.
- Spreading awareness of Safe Babies Teams to interested parties.

Thank you for your time!

