

**Date: February 16, 2017**

**To: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees**

**From: Claire Kendall, Executive Co Director, Family Center of Washington Cty**

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**Parent Child Centers Legislative Platform**

**Critical Need #4 - Children's Integrated Services**

**The Parent Child Centers support the Early Childhood Alliance's request to increase and diversify funding for CIS by \$2,500,000.**

Children's Integrated Services (CIS) offers early intervention, family support, nursing and prevention services that help ensure the healthy development and well-being of children pre-birth through age five.

Addiction and increases in child custody rates have propelled CIS and the service system into crisis in Vermont. Increases and demand for services is not keeping pace with funding resulting in an underfunded mandate across the State.

- **45% increase in Protective Services Child Care** in the past 4 years

We are coming up short in meeting our obligation to our youngest learners including those entitled to Early Intervention services mandated by Federal law.

- In FY'17 to date, the Family Center of Washington County **provided \$101,875 of mandatory non reimbursable Part C services** to clients with private or no insurance. **Part C service is not reimbursable through private insurance.**

**Increased Medicaid funding will ensure:**

- continued progress on family safety and stability
- optimal and healthy child development
- young children's access to quality early care and education

**Please support an increase in funding for CIS of \$2,500,000.**

Let me finish by asking your support for the ACEs legislation that will come before your committee.

## **Parent Child Centers Legislative Platform**

### **Critical Need #2 - Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**

**Investing health care reform dollars in Parent Child Center services to address social determinants of health can dramatically reduce the rising health care costs in the state of Vermont.**

- PCCs are critical community leaders that focus on the prevention of ACEs.
- We provide families with *concrete supports and education to care for their children.*
- Parent Child Centers work with families using a *Two Generational Approach* with a *comprehensive array of state funded supports and services.*
- This approach leads to better outcomes for children and can also have a positive impact on the physical, mental and emotional health and well-being of families.

**The Centers for Disease Control recommends strategies for preventing ACEs, which resonate with the 8 core services that PCCs offer (see attached sheet).**

#### **Parent Child Center Eight Core Services**

**1. Home Visits**

**2. Early Childhood Services**

**3. Parent Education**

**4. Playgroups**

**5. Parent Support Groups**

**6. Concrete supports**

**7. Community Development**

**8. Information and Referral**