

OVERVIEW

I'm here today representing the VT Parent Child Center Network to share two things with you:

1. Implementation of our Master Grant (details below)
2. Share our Network Legislative Platform (3 separate documents)

MASTER GRANT

On February 5, 2015 Kim Coe, LUND, and Scott Johnson, Lamoille Family Center, testified before Senate Government Operations to express our interest in working collaboratively with the Department for Child and Families – Child Development Division (DCF-CDD) in support of implementing a Master Grant with the VT Parent Child Centers (PCCs) pursuant to what became:

Sec. E.300.4 HUMAN SERVICES; IMPROVING GRANTS MANAGEMENT FOR RESULTS-BASED PROGRAMS

As of January 1, 2017, we now have a three-year Master Grant in place issued from DCF-CDD to all fifteen (15) PCCs. Highlights of the Master Grant include:

√ - **Rolled together five (5) previously separate grants and funding streams (\$2,000,000+)**

- Base Grant & 2016 Legislative Allocation –Child Abuse Prevention – Regional Direct Services – Learning Together

√ - **Names specific Outcomes embedded in Act 186** (see below)

√ - **Embedded program performance measures** (see below)

√ - **Focused on prevention and high-risk children**

- 2 Generation Approach with caregivers and children
- Adverse Childhood Experiences to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect

PCC 2017 Legislative PLATFORM

√ - **5 Critical Needs**

- Close the salary and funding gap
- Prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Current Services Budget
- Children's Integrated Services
- Family and Medical Leave Insurance

PCC Master Grant

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ATTACHMENT A: SPECIFICATIONS OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED, EVALUATION, REPORTING

1. PROGRAM NAME: Parent Child Centers

A. Brief Program Description: As established in 33 V.S.A. § 3701, Parent Child Centers (PCCs) are community-based non-profit organizations established for the purpose of providing prevention, early intervention and early child development services to prospective parents and families with young children including those with children who are medically, socio-economically or developmentally at risk. To this end PCC's implement practices aligned with the **Strengthening Families Framework articulated by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)**. These practices are designed to build protective factors in families as a primary prevention strategy to protect children from abuse and neglect. The Department for Children and Families supports the Strengthening Families Framework which identifies **five protective factors that research indicates enhance child and family well-being:**

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and emotional competence of children

B. Program Purpose:

- i. Program-Specific Population: All PCCs are committed to providing, either directly or through referral, at a minimum, eight core services to prospective parents and families with children from birth to age six **with particular attention to families and children experiencing medical, socio-economic or developmental challenges**. Each PCC includes parents and community members on boards and committees that govern the centers.
- ii. Purpose(s) of the Program:
 1. **Promote the health and well-being of children prenatal – age 6 and their families** and build protective factors in families and children that are known to reduce child abuse and neglect.
 2. **Support community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, enhance, and coordinate initiatives, programs, and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect** and to support the coordination of resources and activities to better strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect; and to foster understanding, appreciation and knowledge of diverse populations in order to effectively prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

VT Parent Child Center Network

Senate Government Operations Testimony by Scott Johnson, sjohnson@lamoillefamilycenter.org

February 1, 2017

C. Scope of Work

- i. Description of Strategies or Services to be performed: The Parent Child Center is a community resource for families that provides expertise on early childhood development and parenting for parents of young children. Related PCC services include community outreach and information and referral services for families as well as opportunities for parents to make social connections. Pregnant women and parents of young children in the designated geographic catchment for each PCC area can access these services.
- iii. Parent Child Centers provide eight core services which contribute to Vermont population-level quality of life indicators identified in 3 V.S.A. § 2311 (b) (5) Vermont families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported. (6) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential. (A) Pregnant women and young people thrive. (B) Children are ready for school. (C) Children succeed in school. These eight cores services are:
 1. **Home Visits:** PCC's provide home visits to families with young children who request home-based support. The frequency and content of visits is determined by family goals and interest.
 2. **Early Childhood Services:** PCC's provide developmental, inclusive, child care on-site or in strong collaboration with other early childhood services providers to ensure that families have quality options to meet full-time and part-time child care needs and children have group experiences with their peers.
 3. **Parent Education:** PCC's offer parent education opportunities in a variety of formats and on a range of topics and themes responding to family issues. Educational opportunities are supportive, practically-oriented, and empowering. Information to assist families in understanding and coping with transition issues is included in education services and are also embedded in other services.
 4. **Playgroups:** PCC's provide and support opportunities for parents and children to come together on a regular basis for socialization, peer support, snacks, information, and resource sharing in a developmentally-appropriate setting.
 5. **Parent Support Groups:** PCC's facilitate opportunities for families with common experience and interests to gain mutual support in a peer group setting.
 6. **Concrete supports:** Families have access to an onsite welcoming environment which offers support and information about community services and resources to address the immediate needs of the family and/or contribute to the long-term well-being of the family.
 7. **Community Development:** PCC's advocate for and contribute to family-centered services and events by taking a supportive and/or leadership role in broad-based promotion, prevention and early intervention efforts in the community. This includes active participation in the regional Building Bright Futures (BBF) Council to ensure that direct service activities funded or supported by this grant are aligned with the Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan and regional priorities as identified by the regional BBF Council.
 8. **Information and Referral:** PCC's serve as a clearinghouse for general information about child development and parenting as well as information about local and state-wide resources for families. They contribute to the long-term health and well-being of children and families by sharing information about health care (insurance programs, medical homes and related resources). Service is provided through direct referral and follow-up, if requested. PCCs support services to welcome babies into the community.

Master Grant Outcomes and Performance Measures

PCCs work contributes to the following State Outcomes:

- Vermont families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential.
 - Pregnant women and young people thrive.
 - Children are ready for school.
 - Children succeed in school.

The following parameters apply to ALL of the following performance measures:

- Related to 8 core services
 - Limited to services partially or fully funded through PCC Master Grant
 - Services paid for through another contract (e.g. CIS, ReachUp, CCCSA, VCRHYP) cannot be included in these numbers
1. # of parents/caregivers served by PCCservices
 2. # of children served
 3. # of parent education & support activities
 4. # of playgroups conducted
 5. # of individuals provided with concrete supports (CBCAPdata)
 6. # of community development initiatives supported
 7. Average satisfaction rating of families served by PCC services
 8. % of families reporting positive impact on their lives because of PCCactivities
 9. % of families reporting perceived increase in protective factors

When PCCs deliver their eight core services and meet their performance targets they contribute to good outcomes for children and families that help prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences, including the prevention of: teen pregnancy, children entering custody, a mother and child from requiring public assistance or a woman from entering a correctional facility.

If we want to turn the curve on the opiate epidemic we need to start with prevention in early childhood.