



## Addison County Parent/Child Center

P.O. Box 646 ♦ Middlebury, Vermont 05753 ♦ Tel: 802-388-3171  
Fax: 802-388-1590 ♦ E-Mail: [thepcc@sover.net](mailto:thepcc@sover.net) ♦ [www.sover.net/~thepcc](http://www.sover.net/~thepcc)

To: Senate Health and Welfare

March 29, 2017 Testimony

My name is Donna Bailey and I am the Co-Director of the Addison County Parent/Child Center (ACPCC). We are one of the 15 Parent Child Centers (PCC) in Vermont. The PCCs are the hub of early childhood service across the state. In Addison and at other PCCs, we see every child through Welcome Babies to our most intensive programming of up to 28 hours per week for parents and children, Learning Together.

The PCCs are primary players in CIS and IFS. Across the state, we are leads in CIS or an important member of the team in local regions. The PCCs are home visitors, providers of education for parents and children. Many of us have child care programs. We all home visit and run playgroups. Our work is evidence informed. We have some programming that is evidence based, but the cost of running only evidence-based programs is prohibitive and, in my opinion, it can limit innovation. Our highly trained staff needs the opportunity to create and invent as required by the families we serve and the work we do. The Addison County Parent/Child Center was one of the sites chosen in the creation of the Strengthening Families framework. We were chosen due to our grassroots innovation and connection to at least two generations working with a family at one time in a deep and meaningful, family-centered way.

When discussing ACES, PCCs must be a part of the conversation and work due to our connections with families in Vermont and our ability to work daily or weekly with families and children. Please name us in the many aspects of the work as we do primary prevention and we have the relationships with the most vulnerable and youngest families in the state due to our history of funding.

PCCs are part of why VT is such good shape – we provide prevention, intervention and treatment. We connect people to their medical home or help create one. We work with the Designated Agencies and schools. We work with young families, building skills and language and knowledge for parents, foster parents, grandparents and children. This is priceless. We know that the social determinants of health are not good for those who live in sustained poverty. PCCs help mitigate these costs and could do more with more resources.

In my years at the ACPCC, 19 years so far, I have see more children on the sports page than in day in court in our local paper. This says a lot about early intervention and the years of commitment to early child hood care and education.



Member  
United Way of  
Addison County

*Helping Young Families Get The Right Start*



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Thank you for your time and consideration of Vermont's vulnerable populations and non-profits.  
It is important that we get this right.

Please feel free to contact me for further discussions.

Donna Bailey

Co-Director  
Addison County Parent/Child Center



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