

Hello my name is Pam Hunt. I have prepared this testimony to provide some information and ask for support for the Parent Child Center and the pilot program the Vermont Children and Families Community Response (VCFCR).

The Parent Child Center in conjunction with a grant from DCF has developed a program that focuses on an array of family supports. VCFCR is prevention-based home visiting program for families with children prenatal up to 7 years old that do not meet the criteria for an open case with Family services and have a desire to reduce future involvement with the child protection system (DCF Family Services).

3 CORE components of the program:

- Family goal setting
- Flexible funding supports in time of need that help elevate barriers to moving forward and increase a sense of accomplishment
- Financial coaching to eliminate risk factors and poverty and neglect

This service provides information regarding community resources and referrals to additional programs and or treatment for people. We provide transportation coordination to meet basic and treatment needs.

We have up to 4 months assisting families providing strengths based approaches causing an increase in motivation to work on moving forward and becoming "unstuck" as many parents have mentioned. Thus, providing increased determination to achieve possibilities they may have never thought possible before such as: obtaining getting out of the homeless shelter and getting housing, a legal driver's license, embracing recovery or making new social connections for themselves and their children. One family included a parent with four children who became a single parent, and used the VCFCR program to ensure financial independence and has recently earned her green card.

Every family situation is different and services are tailored for each situation. When parents feel a sense of accomplishment in life it carries over to their children and increased wellness happens for all. There are many stories to tell.

Thank you ☺

Submitted by Pam Hunt, St. Albans VT

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