



- 1) ***Parent Child Centers are Vermont's home grown incubators for innovation in early childhood, in services to young families and in prevention services.*** We are uniquely equipped to innovate because we are not institutional, we are not bureaucratic. We are where you should look when you are trying to have an impact on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Social Determinants of Health. But please be warned: if you want Vermont's Parent Child Centers to go away, keep doing what you've been doing. Keep underfunding, level funding and cutting and the inevitable will occur. One by one we will go away, and Vermont will have lost this precious resource for families. ***Parent Child Centers are asking you to begin remedying this decades-long chronic underfunding by investing \$1.5 Million in our Master Grants and another \$1.5 Million of one-time funding to address capital projects that have been ignored for years, for obvious reasons.***
  
- 2) Unfortunately, this year's Governor's recommend proposes to cut all Reach Up case management services currently contracted to Parent Child Centers. That's 22.5 FTEs state wide. There is no intention, apparently, of increasing the number of case managers in the employ of the State, which means the current State workforce would need to absorb 900 additional cases. Good luck with that. And good luck when the next recession rolls around.

The Administration is saying that this is necessary because there has been a 60% reduction in caseloads. I believe caseloads are down, but by only half of the Administration's number. The Administration inflated the reduction by excluding in their count cases that are on young child deferments and medical modification. Any Reach Up case manager will tell you that those cases aren't closed at all, and that those deferments and modifications give participants and case managers an opportunity to improve the odds of their becoming independent.

The Administration believes this would save about \$1.6 Million. To their credit, and in recognition of the fact that PCCs have been so underfunded for so long, the Administration proposed that half of the savings be re-invested in PCC master grants.

It has come to my attention that that \$800,000 has become a kind of Rorschach test for Appropriators, and that the odds of PCCs getting it are diminishing every day. With all due respect, if you intend to cut those positions – and you shouldn't – at least invest half the savings where they will do the most good: in Vermont's Parent Child Centers.

- 3) Finally, with regard to proposed cuts to Children's Integrated Services, don't be ridiculous. This is the way Human Services should be delivered in Vermont, with multiple agencies that serve the same families sitting together to discuss how to be more effective for the families they serve together and then doing it. But let me get parochial for the last few seconds. There are inequities that need to be addressed. Lamoille's CIS program is generally acknowledged to be among the best performing programs in the State. We have the third highest caseload requirement in the State. We also have the LOWEST reimbursement rate in the State. In July our rate will be increased slightly, but will remain the lowest in Vermont, at 42% lower than the highest reimbursement rate. Please insist that this inequity be addressed. Thank you for your time.