

2/25/19

Good evening,

My name is Joy Ely and I am the new Program Director for Northeast Kingdom Community Action and Parent Child Center in St. Johnsbury Vermont. I started this job 5 weeks ago and I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Parent Child Centers are the answers!

Parent Child Centers

- reduces child custody rates,
- fights addiction,
- lowers rising health care costs,
- continues to make progress on family safety and stability
 - And empower families to make positive changes in their families lives

As you have already heard Co-location of Reach Up Case Management and early childhood services in PCCs ensures that parents are supported to access resources, information, guidance, and community support that are critical to their children's well being during the early years in their development

- ***PCCs should be the home for supports and services for Vermont families. Please do not allow the administration to end the PCC Reach Up Case Management Contracts.***

Reach up case management contracts at Parent/Child Centers are crucial to the integrated, multi-generational approach that PCCs are able to provide to families. We are able to provide a seemingly endless array of services and advocacy to and for young families due to the diverse funding streams and programing that we bring together under one roof.

State offices and systems can be difficult for many families to navigate due to the incredibly challenging paperwork and complicated program requirements. Local community agencies with meaningful connections to these families are often necessary to help families who are not able to successfully navigate these systems on their own.

Prevention work saves money. Please invest in prevention by increasing the PCC Master Grant by \$1.5million AND allocating a one-time investment of \$1.5million so PCCs can pay for needed projects that have been put off because of chronic underfunding.

- Research proves that focusing on prevention is a far more effective use of resources to ensure children reach their full potential than treating the effects of abuse after it has occurred.
- When families are supported, children are less likely to be at risk for child maltreatment and more likely to grow up happy and healthy. Parent Child Center prevention programs and services support stronger families in the Northeast Kingdom!

Thank you for your time

