



383 Sherwood Drive
Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone: 802.262.3292
familycenter@fcwcv.org
www.fcwcv.org
Find us on Facebook

Good evening, I'm Claire Kendall, Co-Director of the Family Center of Washington County. Thank you for taking the time today to listen to my testimony.

Budget Request #1: Increase state funding for Parent Child Centers

Please fully fund the Parent Child Centers' essential work with families with young children. Master Grant funding must increase by \$6,700,000 to close funding gap. Total PCC Master Grant funding must be \$10,000,000. Our request for FY2021 is to increase the Master Grant base by \$4million. We also request \$1.5million in one-time funding to continue to "catch up" on deferred administrative and maintenance expenses that have been delayed as we have dealt with continued under-funding for decades. \$1million in one-time funding was allocated in FY2020, and this money is being directed to critical projects at PCCs.

Parent Child Centers (PCCs) are a network of 15 community-based non-profit organizations, serving all of Vermont. PCCs deliver critical & essential state services to families with young children, through their Master Grant and other grants and contracts with the Department for Children and Families. Master Grant funding does not adequately fund the state services that it requires the PCCs to deliver.

PCCs are the hub of services for families with young children – an actual place in the local community where families are always welcome and can get the support they need, regardless of economic or family status. Children do well when their parents do well. From parenting classes to play groups to information and referrals, the PCCs help families to build their own strength and provide a loving environment for their children. PCC prevention services provide parents with the knowledge, skills and resources they need to care for their children, we work to strengthen families and the communities we live in.

Prevention work saves money. PCCs do more with less and prevent expensive problems down the road the by supporting young families. PCC's are the answer to helping families get the crucial supports they need to build resiliency. Our

multi-generational support is unique and has a proven track record. PCCs use the Strengthening Families Framework and a two-generation approach to deliver 8 core services to families.

Budget Request #2: Please Support the Parent Child Center BILL

PCCs were created through Vermont Statute, and the purpose of each PCC is to provide “prevention and early intervention services such as parenting, education, support training, referral and related services to prospective parents and families with young children, including those whose children are medically, socially, or educationally at risk.” The PCC bill would strengthen the PCC statute, create a funding formula and create an accountability structure for quality at PCCs across the state. We understand that support for the Bill and the request for funding are two different processes. Master Grant contracts between PCC’s and AHS build consistency in service delivery and outcomes measurement across Vermont for the essential state services the PCCs are delivering on behalf of the state.

Parent/Child Centers are able to offer voluntary prevention based programming and advocacy and build relationships with families before, during and after a crisis in their lives. We build relationships with families to support their ability to navigate the daily complex challenges of life.

Research has proven that prevention services targeted at reducing and treating ACEs can dramatically reduce long term health care costs. PCCs use a family-centered, multi-generational, strength based approach that both treats and prevents ACEs in families. We blend our services and relationships in order to create a family plan that is inclusive of all member of the family. PCCs often provide transportation, work sites, case management, childcare and housing support. In addition, we offer parental programming such as parenting classes and parenting support, CIS services, Home Visiting and systems navigation - such as advocacy, applying for benefits, support in finding a medical home and well child visits, etc.

Thank you again for your time today.

Claire Kendall, Co Director