



383 Sherwood Drive
Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone: 802.262.3292
familycenter@fcwcvt.org

www.fcwcvt.org

Good Evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is Janine Gallagher and I'm the Youth and Family Services Director at the Family Center of Washington County. Thank you so much for providing the opportunity for me to speak to you tonight about the importance of the Parent Child Center Network. **I am also here to ask you to fully fund the Parent Child Centers' essential work with families with young children. 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 provide boots on the ground home visiting services for our most vulnerable families. At the Family Center of Washington County we provide community based support to meet families where they are and work with them to make the shifts necessary to enhance their lives and the lives of their young children. We know that children do well when their parents do well. The two-generation approach used by Parent Child Centers helps both parents and children to be successful and healthy.

I have a unique vantage point because I supervise many of the home visitors. In my opinion, it all comes down to relationship. It is the depth of connection that allows a parent suffering from substance use disorder to risk facing the challenges awaiting them as they step into sobriety. Or partnering with homeless families to fill out the mountains of paperwork needed to apply for subsidized housing, and then following them with long term case management to remain stably housed.

This commitment to relationship is core to Parent Child Centers and shows in our teaming with state partners at Economic Services, the Department for Children and Families, the Health Department and scores of other community agencies. We strive to complement, not duplicate services, creating a network where families can get their needs met with a solid team supporting them. We play an integral role and often fill gaps were other programming ends, ensuring continuity of services for families.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify tonight. I hope you will consider supporting the Parent Child Center BILL!

Janine Gallagher, Family Center of Washington County