



**Testimony of Claire Kendall, Co-director Family Center of Washington County, on behalf of the Parent Child Center Network**

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Senate Health & Welfare Committee

**Some Examples of how PCCs work with hospitals and FQHA's across the state:**

Several PCCs have strong connections with their community hospitals/FQHAs. Others are building connections. Some have embedded staff, funded through private foundation grants. Families are connected to PCC resources by the physician. In one case, the PCC is partnering with the hospital to build and staff a clinic in the community where the PCC can connect the family to medical services. Parent Child Centers have decades of experience working on prevention in communities across the state of Vermont. Our services align with the Center for Social Policy's Protective Factors and have a direct correlation to positive outcomes for the Social Determinates of Population Health.

Parent Child Centers are very interested in working with pediatricians and other health care providers to ensure that families are getting the services they need. As you will see, we are already doing some of this work, and that work is helping the ACO achieve its goals; however, **we are not being funded for this work, unless we find private funding on our own.** The PCC Network is interested in joining care coordination across the state, as we are partners in the system.

**Family Center of Washington County:** We have a strong direct connection with our regional hospital and the hospital leadership at CVMC. Family Center Co Director is a member of THRIVE and on the Leadership Partners Team- our regional Accountable Community for Health entity. We are currently completing our first year of implementing an ACES pilot in partnership with WCMH and CVMC which includes family support staff embedded in the pediatric practice in Berlin. The pilot includes an ACES screening for children 0-3, and a warm handoff for positive screens for families who would like family support and parent education, life skill supports, resources and referrals, and we work within the regional CIS system. **We receive no funding for this although we have support from hospital leadership to consider funding- but hasn't happened yet.**

**The Family Place:** The Family Place and TLC Family Resource Center in Claremont NH are involved with a pilot project with Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center that is **funded through a private foundation grant.** Family support workers from TFP (CIS-FS) and TLC have scheduled hours at the pediatric

outpatient clinic at DHMC, and the idea is that we are there to answer families' or providers' questions about what home visiting support are available to them. Typically, a provider will have an appointment with a family, and if there are family support needs identified, they walk them out to our table and we help them understand what resources are available—and when appropriate, follow up by engaging them through home visiting. The grant funding allowed us to hire an additional Family Services worker to support the time at DHMC and the additional case load.

**Addison County PCC:** The director is the chair of the board for our FQHQ. We work to get patients here for dentistry, primary care and MAT services. We do the same with all private practices and Porter Hospital practices. **We do not get funding for this work.**

**Janet Munt Family Room:** We are currently working with University Pediatrics to build and staff a clinic for immigrant and refugee children ages 0-5. **We are currently writing a grant to provide well child visits from the docs, provide community health workers, who are bilingual, who will provide parent/family education in a group setting while we also do child care for older siblings. There is no funding specifically for us, but we are including admin, insurance, child care, and rent costs that will help us financially.** This is a 3 year pilot project. We have already received \$25k from the Vermont Community Foundation to build the exam rooms.

**Rutland County PCC:** Currently working on developing relationships with the Rutland hospital.

**Lamoille Family Center:** Our DULCE (Developmental Understanding and Legal Consultation for Everyone) project has a full-time LFC-employed family support worker (FSW) embedded in the FQHC Pediatric practice. By embedded, it means the FSW is the face of the practice and actually accompanies the patient into the exam room with the Pediatrician. The FSW does both adult and infant screenings and provides a warm handoff to any indicated services. This will continue for at least another two years. DULCE is a national pilot, with a monthly CQI meetings conducted by the project evaluator, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

The LFC Director also serves as co-chair of the Unified Community Collaborative/Accountable Communities for Health with the co-medical director at Copley Hospital. This is the Blueprint group responsible for making decisions regarding how best to impact population health in the Lamoille Valley. **We do not receive funding from the hospital or FQHC.**

Thank you for your time today, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions at [clairek@fcwcvt.org](mailto:clairek@fcwcvt.org).

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*Building resourceful families and healthy children to create a strong community*