



February 4, 2022

Greetings, my name is Denise Main, Executive Director of Sunrise Family Resource Center, Bennington County's Parent Child Center. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony and thank you for your service on behalf of Vermonters.

Please support the PCCN request to increase the base funding by \$1.5 million for a total of \$4.8 million in the PCC line in fy23 budget & also for a second-year of one-time funding to address the needs of families with young children because of the COVID pandemic (\$3.7million).

I am writing today to ask that you fully fund the PCCN and the essential work that we do everyday with families with young children. We are Vermont's system of provider's doing prevention work throughout the state. We also provide targeted programming in our communities that address the unique needs of families. We do this primary with contract with the State of Vermont.

PCCs all work with families using strength-based, family-center practices and embrace a multi-generational approach. We are bonded through our 8 core services that support families getting off to strong, healthy start. Our early prevention work reduces the likelihood of child abuse and neglect by building the researched-based Strengthening Families Protective Factors.

Last year Sunrise continued our concrete support to families during COVID with "extras" on top of what we normally would do, such as providing food and diapers, formula. Families were in need of technology support in ways that they haven't needed in the past, in order to help their child attend on-line activities ranging from story-times and playgroups to school and therapy sessions. Parents and caregivers were asked to attend community supports such as their substance misuse and mental health appointments via telehealth, so additional items such as chrome books and phone cards were needed from the PCCS. The additional stress and isolation of COVID, contributed to families needing additional opportunities to engage and stay connected. PCCs accomplished this by expanding outdoor activities, small in-person groups when possible and creative virtual offerings. We were able to help keep children engaged while at home with activity bags and ingredients to do at home cooking activities. Sunrise was proud

to re-open our early care and education program with the Gov. order and continued to support families during this unprecedented time.

I have worked at SFRC for 35 years. I came because of its' strength-based, family centered practices and multi-generational partnership with families. All these years later, our philosophy has been embraced by many other organizations and is Nationally recognized as best practice for working with families and children. I've stayed because I believe no other organizations does it better than PCC's.

Please support the PCCN request to increase the base funding by \$1.5 million, as well as a second-year of 3.7 million in one-time funding to address pandemic needs.

Thank you for reading my testimony and for all that you do on behalf of Vermont's children and families.

Sincerely submitted,

Denise Main