



Please Support the Parent Child Center Bill

House Human Services Committee
April 21, 2022



Parent Child Centers were established in Vermont statute in the late 1980s.

Since that time, the Parent Child Center Network of providers has become more formalized and has worked to establish consistency and quality in service delivery for families across the state.

The Parent Child Center (PCC) Bill attempts to *bring that new level of formality into statute and establish clear accountability for the PCCs* as they deliver essential state services to families with young children.

Designation of PCCs

The bill (S.91) would update current statute, which has been in place for over 20 years.

The current statute has been pieced together over the years, as more PCCs came into being. It has always described the criteria for being a Parent Child Center.

This bill would update the criteria and create a more formal role for the Parent Child Network which has been in existence for about 40 years.

Designation of PCCs

The bill would retain the final authority to the Secretary of Human Services or a designee to designate a PCC. Designation basically means that the PCC will receive funds through the Integrated Grant line item in the budget (Dept ID 603650) for the 8 Core Services outlined in the bill.

According to the bill, the Network would have the authority to recommend PCCs for designation every 6 years. The six-year time frame was chosen because the PCCs already have a structure of an in-depth Peer Review every 3 years, conducted by the Network, which state officials are encouraged to participate in.

If, during a Peer Review, a PCC has areas of improvement identified, a plan is made to support that PCC through the Network with involvement of other stakeholders and community partners to address those issues before the next Peer Review.

The main goal is to have a process that recognizes the PCC Network as both a support for all PCCs and an internal accountability structure to maintain standards and ensure that the PCCs are delivering the eight core services for families with young children.



Designation of PCCs

The Parent Child Center Network is a well-established entity that provides support and accountability statewide to the 15 existing Parent Child Centers. We meet as a Network monthly and more.

We participate in peer reviews and work on our own programming and help each other and other organizations to do so.

Along with strengthened partnership with the state this bill would support the clear designation of Parent Child Centers, ensuring that all entities within the Network are providing the high-quality work expected in the legislation, and provide the Network a role in this accountability.

Designation every 6 years provides a PCC that may be struggling to be given time to correct any issues and ensure they are providing the quality services needed for this designation. If, for any reason, this was no longer the case, the Network would partner in the responsibility to identify a new Parent Child Center for a specific region of the state. The bill has language for that process, if it becomes necessary.

A bit of history...

The State of Vermont first awarded state funds to Parent Child Centers in FY 1988. In that year, \$350,000 went to eight centers: Addison County PCC, Family Center of Northwestern Vermont, Lamoille Family Center, Milton Family Community Center, Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Rutland County PCC, Sunrise Family Resource Center in Bennington, and the The Family Center of Washington County.

The following year, the Agency of Human Services designated two new organizations to receive base line PCC funding of \$25,000 – the Lund Family Center in Burlington and the Family Place in White River Junction (now located in Norwich, Vermont).

In FY 1990, the Vermont Legislature appropriated additional funds for centers to serve the counties of Grand Isle, Orange, Essex and Windham.

In FY 1993, the Vermont Legislature appropriated \$10,000 to officially establish a Parent Child Center in Springfield. During 1994, the General assembly raised the PCC appropriation to \$722,321.

In 2017, four funding streams, including the PCC Base Grant (above) were combined into one to create the PCC Master Grant (now called the Integrated Grant).

Reporting and Oversight of PCCs

Each PCC reports to CDD as part of the Integrated Grant Agreement, wherein there are indicators and outcomes that each PCC is responsible for. The bill would not change this relationship.

- What would change is that the Network would have a role in co-developing with CDD the accountability measures and would also have a role in determining an equitable distribution of funding across the state. Each PCC would still need to report separately; however, the Network might play a role in making this reporting more efficient by collecting the data and presenting it to CDD.

The PCCs report twice per year on their performance measures. They survey families and collect other data required, and it is submitted via an online form.

The PCCN is actively working with DCF to build a better reporting system with the state. The PCCN is working toward a statewide annual report, but each PCC also publishes their own annual report.

The Parent Child Center Network

The PCCN has by-laws, which can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/c9jsw24rgzsmhfi/VPCCN%20Bylaws.pdf?dl=0>

Further, the PCCN has developed a Handbook for Directors, which includes much of the documentation you had mentioned in your discussion last week.

The Handbook includes:

- Mission of the VPCCN
- Philosophy and Core Services
- Core Services
- Network Structure
- Entering and Exiting the Network
- Peer Review Process and Checklist
- Support for New Directors
- Financial, program, and statistical reporting forms

You can see the PCCN Directors Handbook here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ubz2qdug49w2nm6/PCC%20Director%20Handbook%204-19-18.pdf?dl=0>

The Network also has a website: <https://vtparentchildcenternetwork.org/>



The PCC Peer Review

LUND Parent Child Center

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
LUND'S VIRTUAL
PARENT CHILD
CENTER PEER REVIEW!**

April 29th, 9 am-12 pm

The Vermont Parent Child Center Network uses the peer review process every three years to ensure quality of our services. This is an opportunity to invite our community to hear from our staff and participants about our work and to help us plan for our next three years.

**Click here to
RSVP by April 22.**



The Peer Review Agenda

9:00 – Welcome & Introductions & Virtual Tour - Co Directors, Management Team and Staff

9:30 - Introductions & Peer Review Overview- PCC Director and PCC Peer Review Facilitator (a different PCC director)

9:45 - Testimonials from Staff, Participants & Community Partners

10:30 - Break

10:45 – Overview of Focus Groups for Break Out Session- PCC Director

10:50– 11:30 – Breakout sessions: Focus Group Questions (these may be different for each PCC):

- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**
- **Parent Advisory Committee**
- **Data & Evaluation**

11:30 – 12:00 – Breakout Session Report Out & Closing Remarks- including 3 commendations and 3 recommendations from each group

The Eight Core Services

The bill requires each PCC to deliver 8 Core Services:

- (1) home visits
- (2) early childhood services
- (3) parent education
- (4) playgroups
- (5) parent support groups
- (6) concrete supports
- (7) community development
- (8) resources and referrals





The Eight Core Services

The 8 Core Services have always been the foundation of the Parent Child Center model of providing services and supports to families with young children.

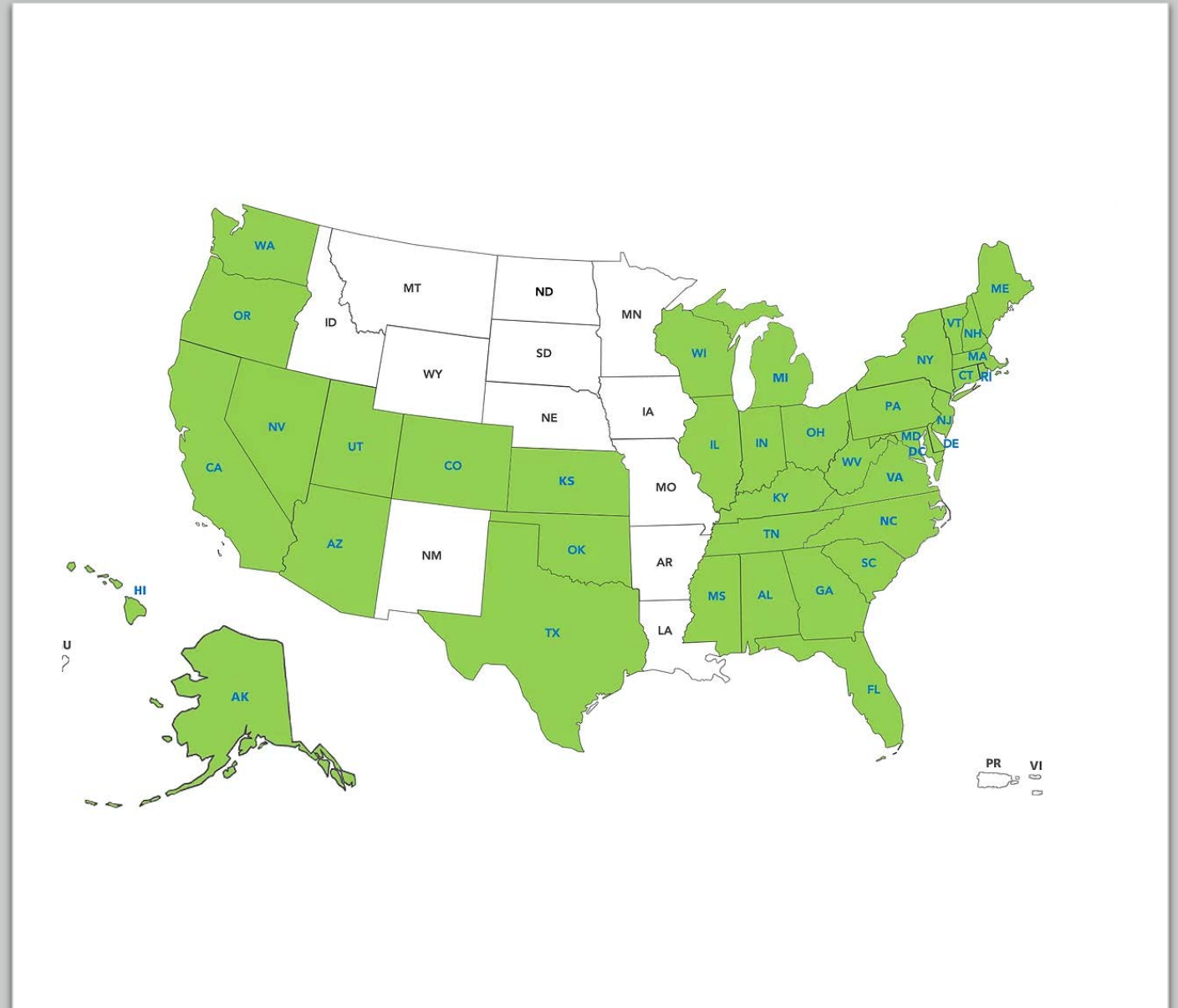
The bill would codify these 8 Core Services.

PCCs are a National Model

Across the country, Family Resource Centers (FRCs) work with families in a multi-generational, strengths-based, family-centered approach to enhance parenting skills, foster the healthy development and well-being of children, youth, and families, prevent child abuse, increase school readiness, connect families to resources, develop parent and community leadership, engage males and fathers, support healthy marital and couple relationships, and promote family economic success.

Founded in 2011, the National Family Support Network (NFSN) is a membership-based organization comprised of state Networks of two or more Family Resource Centers, working together within a collective impact framework to ensure coordinated quality support for families. As the United States' coordinating body for Family Resource Center Networks, the NFSN currently has 39 member networks, comprised of more than 3,000 Family Support and Strengthening organizations, representing the great geographical and demographic diversity of the nation.

The Vermont Parent Child Centers were some of the first in the nation and are still considered to be a national model for Family Resource Centers.



Quality Standards

The 15 Parent Child Centers have been working together through the PCC Network to adopt and implement the nationally accepted Standards of Quality for the past few years. As of now, all 15 PCCs have been trained in the Standards and are now working to implement them throughout the Network. These standards are nationally adopted standards and uniquely integrate and operationalize the Principles of Family Support Practice with the Strengthening Families Framework and its research-based evidence-informed 5 Protective Factors.

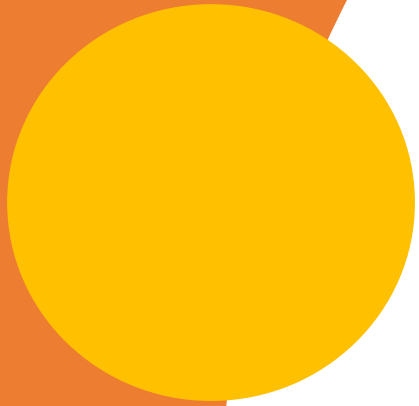
The Standards focus on 5 Core Areas of Practice:

1. Family Centeredness
2. Family Strengthening
3. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
4. Community Strengthening
5. Evaluation

In order to fully implement the national standards, each Parent Child Center will continue to conduct an annual self-assessment and create an Action Plan to implement the Standards of Quality. The PCC Integrated Grant now has a performance measure to indicate what stage of the Action Plan each PCC is currently in. Also, one of the “turn the curve” questions at each PCC’s Peer Review must be directly related to the Action Plan. The Action Plans are designed to be informed by and used by all stakeholders – public departments, foundations, community-based organizations, and families – as a tool for planning, providing, and assessing quality practice.

More info here: <https://www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/standards-implementation>





Thank You!

Please support S.91 by concurring with the
Senate version of the bill.