

Committees that address Professional Development Of early childhood and after school professionals

The Vermont Northern Lights Career Development Center works with a number of committees and groups to review, advise and implement its work. Most committees meet monthly, unless specified. All of the ones listed here are open to participate, join or observe. Contact information is listed at the end of each committee descriptions.

A little history: the first Northern Lights Advisory Board

In 2005, when the Northern Lights Career Development Center began, it created an Advisory Board with specific membership to review, advise and make decisions about the work of the new Center. As the Career Development Center developed, the role of the Advisory body also changed. Beginning in the fall 2006, Northern Lights used the Professional Preparation and Development (PPD) Committee as its Advisory body.

Committees listed here include:

- The Professional Preparation and Development Committee
- Building Bright Futures (BBF): State Council and Regional Councils
- Related Streamline Committee
- Child Development Division - Think Tank
- Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence
- Early Childhood Listerve- Early Childhood Steering Committee

The Professional Preparation and Development (PPD) Committee

The Professional Preparation and Development Committee is a committee of the statewide Building Bright Futures Council. It has representatives from early childhood and afterschool programs, services and others who guide and support professional development in Vermont. Members include representation from early childhood, afterschool and family based child care programs, Head Start, the Vermont Child Care Apprenticeship Program (VCCICC), the Vermont Department of Education, the Child Care Community Support Agencies, Vermont AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children), Building Bright Futures regional Council and others. Over 100 individuals receive notices of the meetings, announcements between meetings and meeting notes and handouts.

- Membership is open and meetings are held five times a year. To receive past minutes, and find out the current schedule and location of meetings, contact Melissa Riegel-Garrett at melissa.riegel-garrett@vaeyc.org or call 802-828-2876

Building Bright Futures (BBF): State Council and Regional Councils

The state-level Building Bright Futures Council is linked to 12 Regional councils and other state-wide committees, including the Professional Preparation and Development Committee, described above. Together they work to create an integrated system of quality services for young children and their families in Vermont.

- The state-level Building Bright Futures (BBF) Council is made up of appointed representatives of different public and private groups, concerned about services for young children and their families in Vermont. The State Council meets regularly and meetings are open for the public to view. The Council seeks to assure that all Vermont children are

healthy and successful by improving the quality, affordability and accessibility of services for families with children under the age of six in the areas of health, early care and education.

- Each area of the state also has a Regional Building Bright Futures Council. Their meetings are usually monthly. The Councils includes a diverse voting membership that vote on decisions of the Council; meetings are open for anyone to participate. The Regional Councils are charged with community-based planning and program development, with the same goals as the State Council above. A number of them have their own professional development committees.
- For more information about the BBF State or Regional Councils, go to www.buildingbrightfutures.org which includes a list of BBF State Council members and Regional Council Directors.

Early Childhood and Afterschool Program Director Credential Committee:

The Early Childhood and Afterschool Program Director Committee reviews and approves program director credential applications for each step of the credential. It also reviews and makes decisions about the criteria for earning the credential and oversees the progress of implementing the credential in the state professional development system.

- For more information about this committee and if you want to join it, contact: Maureen Young McCarthy at vtlight@ccv.edu or call: 802-885-8374. For more information about the Program Director Credential go to the *Credential* section of this website.

Related Streamline Committee

This Committee promotes the use of the Professional Development side of the Bright Futures Information System (BFIS) and the alignment of the professional development system. The committee is developing more streamlined systems of professional development data entry and accessibility, and helps professionals in the field learn about them. Committee members consist of representatives from the Child Development Division, STARS, Northern Lights Career Development Center and others. The work of this committee connects to the Professional Preparation and Development Committee.

- To learn more about this committee contact: Jan Walker at 241-2198
jan.walker@ahs.state.vt.us

Think Tank This Child Development Division (CDD) initiated committee was created as a forum for CDD and partners to discuss, think about and conduct research in order to make recommendations on how the Division might best use resources to promote quality of services for children. The focus is on effective strategies that lead to program quality through professional development and retention of qualified teachers and caregivers. Meetings are open and connect to the work of the Professional Preparation and Development Committee.

- To learn more about this committee and its schedule contact Jan Walker at 241-2198
jan.walker@ahs.state.vt.us

The Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence is a statewide partnership organization guided by a Steering Committee and Partner Advisory Council and staffed by a dedicated group of

afterschool educators and professionals. Professional Development for Afterschool staff is one part of its work. Learn more at: <http://vermontafterschool.org/>

- To learn more about this committee and the work of afterschool professionals contact Kerrie Workman, Consultant for Afterschool Professional Development, ph: 802-426-2067, email: kwork23@yahoo.com

Instructor Approval Panel

This panel emerged from the Instructor Qualifications System Review Board, the committee that designed the Instructor Qualifications System for early childhood and later, after school instructors, in 2005. The current Approval Panel began meeting in January 2006 and meets every 6 weeks. The panel reviews and approves applications for qualified instructors and renewing instructors and it makes recommendations to Northern Lights Career Development Center in order to update and enhance the Instructor Registry system.

- For more information about this Panel contact Maureen Young- McCarthy at vtnlight@ccv.edu or 802-885-8374. For more information about the Instructor registry go to the Northern Lights website and look under Instructor.

Early Childhood listserv (Early Childhood Steering Committee)

The Vermont early childhood listserv circulates by email to those who join. It is open to all. It is primarily used for announcements and for updates on new articles or research of importance to early childhood professionals across the state. Guidelines for "listserv etiquette" should be followed so as not to clutter other people's email boxes.

- If you'd like to have your name added to the Early Childhood Steering Committee List Serve, please send an email to: michaella.collins@uvm.edu. In the subject line please write "Subscribe ECSC Listserv". (If you want to unsubscribe write "Unsubscribe ECSC Listserv" in the subject line.)