Mission: The Vermont Parent Child Center Network provides leadership, support, and advocacy on behalf of its membership and in collaboration with key partners in order to achieve the best outcomes for families.

Contact: Vikki Patterson, Vermont Parent Child Center Network Chair
Tel: 802-893-1457, vpatterson@miltonfamilycenter.org

The Vermont Parent Child Center Network is a coalition of community-based non-profit organizations designed to help all Vermont families get off to a healthy start, promote well-being, and build on family strengths. They provide support and education to families with young children through strengths-based, holistic, and collaborative services with a focus on early childhood education and prevention services.

At a Glance

- Type of Members: Community-based
- Network Annual Budget: $45,000
- Pass-Thru Annually: No
- Membership Dues: Yes
- Target Population: Prospective parents and families with children from 0-6 with particular attention to families and children experiencing medical, socio-economic, or developmental challenges
- Network Structure: Independent Nonprofit Organization
- Impetus for Network Creation: Established by Programs and Government coming together and to create a statute to formally recognize the centers as a Network serving all of Vermont communities. The statute can be found at http://legislature.vermont.gov/statures/fullchapter/33/037

Service Areas

- Basic Needs Support
- Child Development Activities
- Child Abuse/Neglect Treatment Services
- Community Development Activities
- Family Economics and Self Sufficiency
- Family Literacy and Education Supports
- Formal Service Coordination
- Life Skills Development
- Parent Education
- Parent Leadership Development
- Peer-to-Peer Supports
- Resource and Referral
Vermont

Highlights

• The state statute that established the Network requires each member to participate in a comprehensive peer review process, including outcome accountability.

• Through a recently established Master Grant with the Agency of Human Services Child Development Division, the Network worked with the department to identify performance measures that every member will be tracking beginning this spring through the use of Strengthening Families survey data collection.

• Parent Child Centers take a two-generation approach to physical, social and emotional health, supporting children and their caregivers at the same time. The Parent Child Center services use the Strengthening Families Framework and two generational approach to both mitigate and prevent adverse childhood experiences.

Outcomes

The Network has determined that by providing services to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences, the Parent Child Centers save the State of Vermont $210,000 (2010 dollars) per family that would otherwise would have been spent on addressing profound health effects, in addition to child abuse and neglect: including $33,000 in childhood health care costs, $11,000 in adult medical costs, $144,000 in productivity losses, $8,000 in child welfare costs, $7,000 in criminal justice costs, and $8,000 in special education costs.