

2020 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL



The State Advisory Council (SAC) is Vermont's Governor-appointed, primary advisory body on the well-being of children prenatal to age eight and their families. In partnership with Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP) Committees and the Regional Council Network, the SAC sets priorities and the strategic direction for statewide initiatives using the VECAP and up-to-date data. In 2019 and the start of 2020, the SAC worked to drive collective action in Vermont in **2 key areas: (1) Early Childhood and Family Mental Health and (2) Workforce as a critical step to build a high-quality, accessible Early Childhood system.** Given the COVID-19 pandemic's exacerbation of gaps and barriers faced by children and families statewide, as well as Vermont's re-commitment to dispelling systemic racism and social injustice, VECAP Committees and the SAC made 5 areas of policy recommendations.

- 1. RECOGNIZE VERMONT'S EARLY CARE & EDUCATION SYSTEM & WORKFORCE AS ESSENTIAL**
- 2. MITIGATE COVID IMPACTS ON FAMILY ECONOMIC STABILITY & MENTAL HEALTH**
- 3. RECOGNIZE CHRONIC INEQUITIES & RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**
- 4. EMPOWER FAMILY VOICE TO REBUILD A STRONGER SYSTEM**
- 5. EVOLVE OUR DATA SYSTEM TO ADDRESS GAPS**

Historically, SAC recommendations have only focused on legislative action. The SAC recognized that change must happen at every level to improve outcomes for children and families. Given the update to Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan and in an attempt to draw concrete alignment across all of our work, the **2020 SAC Recommendations** seek to create meaningful change across **four levels of Vermont's Early Childhood system: 1) child outcomes, 2) families and communities, 3) Early Childhood agencies, service providers, etc., and 4) policy makers (e.g. the legislature, Governor, etc.)** (see Figure 1 on page 6). Each recommendation identifies which level of the Early Childhood system is targeted for change within the next year and how it is aligned with Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP). The ultimate goal of all recommendations is to improve outcomes for children.

