

Quarterly Report to the Partner Advisory Council

MARCH 2011

It has been a snowy winter but a productive one for the Center with several important milestones and events occurring during the last three months, including the legislative day, release of our mapping report, and the final steps in the merger with the Vermont School Age Care Network (VSACN).

We were fortunate to have good weather for the Vermont Afterschool for All Legislative Day where we saw participation doubled from last year and over 65 legislators joining us for the luncheon. Thank you to all the partners who participated in the planning, met with legislators, and were present to celebrate the day with us. Your participation was greatly appreciated and your presence as partners was important.

In February, we also released our data mapping report, *Vermont's Landscape for Expanded Learning*. While the report marks an important first step in being able to identify and map afterschool programs in Vermont, working through the data and available information also helped us identify areas where additional research is needed as we build a comprehensive understanding of afterschool programs, opportunities, funding, and challenges in Vermont. For example, one change that we would like to pursue with the Child Development Division is a way to separate out child care financial assistance (also known as child care subsidy) for early care and education from that portion that goes towards afterschool and school age care programs. A number of other policy implications and areas for next steps are identified in the report and we'll be looking at these over the next 6-12 months.

Starting on March 1st, our merger with the Vermont School Age Care Network is official and the Center assumes responsibility for this grant and the work supporting programs that comes with it. Sue Kamp officially started working for the Center on this date as well. This coming month, CVEDC is moving into a new office space at St. Michael's College, Fort Ethan Allen, and we are hoping to rent a 1-room office next to theirs to use as a base for the Center. We are looking forward to setting up in the new space and to expanding our work in these new directions.

Thank you for your support and partnership,
Holly Morehouse, Director

Partner Advisory Council 2010-2011

- Ginny Burley, Community Connections and Afterschool Ambassador Emeritus
- Jeff Fournier, Burlington Afterschool
- Nicole Mace, Voices for Vermont's Children
- Ruth Matthews, Vermont Agency of Human Services, Child Development Division
- Mike Mrowicki, Putney Family Services and Vermont State Representative
- MaryBeth Pinard-Brace, Vermont Family Network
- Carmel Quinn, Girls Scouts of the Green and White Mountains
- Barb Russ, Winooski School District
- Karen Scott, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
- Rich Tulikangas, Linking Learning to Life
- Darlene Worth, Champlain Valley Educator Development Center

Center Operations

- The merger with VSACN officially went into effect on March 1st. In January and February, we completed all the necessary paperwork for the grant from CDD to shift over. Sue Kamp started work for the Center on March 1st and the three of us (Holly, Lynne, and Sue) are looking at how best to support each other and our work together.
- We have found someone to provide computer tech support for us, Blair Wahler at Lake Champlain Computer Services. He's been great at fixing glitches on our two computers and getting us set up with appropriate virus protection and firewall software.
- Our fiscal agent, Champlain Valley Educator Development Center, is moving to a new location at St. Michael's College, Fort Ethan Allen. There is an adjacent, smaller office space in the same building that we're exploring as a possible location for the Center as well.
- We completed and submitted a progress report narrative and financial statement for the Child Development Division grant in January and another one for the Vermont Department of Education grant in February.
- Between 12/1/10 and 2/28/11, we had 1155 total visits and 781 absolute unique visitors to the website. Since March 1, 2010, when we first installed Google Analytics, we have had: 4,727 total visits and 2,846 absolute unique visitors to the website.
- We continue to use our Facebook page to get information out to the field. We've posted policy updates, partner news, training opportunities, and videos.
- Between December 1 and February 28, we have had an average of 51 visitors per week on our Facebook page (up from 33 last quarter) and have collected a total of 93 fans (up from 84 last quarter). Mark Favazza added links to our website that go directly to our Facebook page and to our Blog.
- We continue to use our Mail Chimp account to communicate with programs, partners, and advocates. We have a total of 494 subscribers (with the legislators removed), 102 new subscribers over the last year, and an open rate over 20%.

Highlights

- Over the last year, we have had over 2,800 unique visitors to our website and 102 new "subscribers"
- Submitted our required Progress Reports to CDD and VTDOE
- CVEDC is moving to a new location! The new offices will be located at St. Michael's College, Fort Ethan Allen and we are looking at an adjacent space for the Center.

Next Steps and Partner Points

- Please join us in welcoming Sue Kamp as our new Project Manager for Training and Membership.

Partnership Development

- We currently have four open spots on the Partner Advisory Council. David Gibson stepped down because of his job in Arizona and Emanuel Betz resigned now that the VTDOE 21C program is one of our major funders. We also have two spots to fill in line with the VSACN merger. The partner group will use the March Advisory Council meeting to look at filling these positions in a way that strategically balances the composition of the group while also furthering our work together.
- At CVEDC's invitation, Holly has started participating in the School Improvement Grant audits in the northwest region. These school audits provide a comprehensive look at the systems in place within schools to support student learning. Participating on an audit team has been a good opportunity to look at what strategies and systems are in place and to also consider how expanded learning opportunities are or can be used.

- Lynne, Sue, and Emanuel attended the National Mott Statewide Afterschool Networks meeting in FL at the end of January. Two plenary sessions that they mentioned in particular were Milton Chen, author of *Education Nation*, and An-Me Chung talking her new work with teen programming and space at the Chicago Public Library. Other topics that were of interest and sparked possible ideas for Vermont, included the Global Learning Project by the Asia Society, building conferences to generate revenues for the general operating budget, and strengthening relationships with foundations.
- Very Special Arts Vermont (VSA-VT) started a partnership with VSACN and is now interested in continuing that relationship with the Center. The VSA-VT program reinforces literacy, math, and science principles while encouraging exploration in the arts arenas. VSA-VT is currently looking for grant funding to be able to provide training for afterschool programs that combines direct service programming to participants in the afterschool program with training for the afterschool staff. When that funding comes through, we will help publicize the program statewide and assist in connecting afterschool programs with this opportunity.
- Hunger Free Vermont, formerly the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, partnered with us on the Vermont Afterschool Legislative Day by providing “to-go” snack bags for all participants. In addition to encouraging programs to participate in afterschool snack and meal programs, the bags included a piece of fresh fruit, a slice of carrot bread, and the recipe for the bread so that afterschool providers could make it in their programs.
- We tried to partner with 4-H this year around their Youth Legislative Day and our Vermont Afterschool Student Ambassadors but the structure of their event and the timing of our legislative day did not match up. This potential partnership may be something we revisit for next year.
- Rae Ann Knopf, Deputy Commissioner- Vermont Department of Education, and Reeva Murphy, Deputy Commissioner- Child Development Division, both spoke at the Vermont Afterschool Legislative Day and in conversations afterwards expressed continued interest in and support of our work.
- The Burlington Citywide Afterschool Coalition has started work on the joint afterschool database project (with funding from the United Way of Chittenden County). Coalition partners are mapping out possible data elements, discussing database structure and organization, and using examples from other citywide projects to develop procedures for addressing access and confidentiality.
- The Center will be hosting a table this year at the Working With Youth Conference on May 20th in Killington. Sue Kamp and MaryBeth Pinard-Brace both serve on the planning committee for this conference. We hope to interest other programs and providers in ISS-AP for next year and in the *Lights! Camera! Learning!* project.

Highlights

- A small Vermont team attended the National Mott Statewide Afterschool Networks meeting in FL in January.

Next Steps and Partner Points

- We will be looking to add four members to our Partner Advisory Council. Names and suggestions should be given to the Steering Committee.
- Think about joining us at Vermont’s Working With Youth conference on May 20th in Killington.

Policy and Advocacy

- We completed our report for the data mapping project, *Vermont’s Landscape for Expanded Learning*, in time for the Vermont Afterschool Legislative Day. The report identifies a total of 358 comprehensive

afterschool programs in the state and also includes information on students served, program hours and capacity, funding streams, and key challenges.

- The House Education Committee has been hearing testimony this session on the Achievement Gap. Nicole Mace, Voices for Vermont’s Children, was asked to testify and her testimony made a strong argument for the role of effective afterschool and summer programs in helping to address this important issue. Emanuel Betz, Vermont Department of Education, also testified and his testimony focused on the 21C program in Vermont.
- Ginny Burley, Community Connections, played her partner role early in the morning on the first day of the legislative session to stand in line and get us a date for the Card Room in 2012. Thanks to Ginny, Vermont Afterschool will be hosting the Card Room at the State House on March 2, 2012. Since it’s a Friday we will not hold our legislative day on the same date but will use the Card Room time to either promote the event ahead of time or to follow up with legislators afterwards.
- The Vermont Afterschool for All Legislative Day was held on February 23, 2011, and saw attendance double from last year thanks in large part to Lynne’s efforts coordinating the legislator piece and helping programs make connections with legislators and extend personal invitations. Here are a few other highlights from the event:
 - The total number of participants was 158 (up from 80 last year) including over 65 legislators joining us for lunch (up from 8 last year)
 - Special guests that attended and shared a few words, included: Rae Ann Knopf, Deputy Commissioner, Vermont Department of Education; Maggie Gendron, Senator Leahy’s office; Reeva Murphy, Deputy Commissioner, Child Development Division; and Speaker of the House Shap Smith, Vermont State Legislature.
 - Governor Peter Shumlin joined us for lunch and introduced the film clip, *Bringing Schools and Community Together: Honoring Vermont Educator Molly Oglesby*. A video spotlight of the Governor speaking at the luncheon is posted on our website.
 - The winners of the *Lights! Camera! Learning!* video competition were announced. The winners were the Y at Underhill for their “Photography in Action” program and Bellows Falls Middle School and their “Television Production” program. Congratulations to these programs and their students. Winning programs each received \$1000 and a 6-pack of Flip video cameras. The winning videos will be posted on our website shortly.
 - The House Resolution on Afterschool was read in the State House and program directors, staff, students, and parents were introduced to the floor
 - Youth Ambassadors testify in two committees: House Education and House Human Services
 - Paul Young, Executive Director of the National Afterschool Association, spoke about the importance of school-community partnerships in building strong afterschool programs
- This fall Lynne coached an ISS-AP strand on Raising Local Funding Through Town and School Budgets and Fundraising Campaigns. Out of this strand, she was able to develop a 1-hr strategy workshop for local advocacy efforts. The workshop was held at the close of the Legislative Day and about 40 people

Highlights

- Completed our report on *Vermont’s Landscape for Expanded Learning*.
- Attendance doubled this year at the Vermont Afterschool for All Legislative Day

Next Steps and Partner Points

- Visit our website to view the Spotlight on Afterschool video of Governor Peter Shumlin
- Mark your calendars! We’ll be hosting in the State House Card Room next year on Friday, March 12, 2012.

participated.

- We have been in communication with Voices for Vermont’s Children about legislative issues in this current session that may affect afterschool programs and/or children and youth. Sheila Reed, Legislative and Community Advocacy Coordinator, attended our Legislative Day and gave a brief overview of key pieces of legislation that Voices is following this session.

Professional Development and High-quality Programs

- The Northeast Networks have jointly held two professional development webinars this winter.
 - Vermont hosted the January webinar with Ray McNulty of the International Center for Educational Leadership speaking on supporting student learning.
 - Massachusetts hosted the February webinar with Anita Krishnamurthi, Director of STEM Policy at the Afterschool Alliance, speaking on STEM in afterschool.
- NJ has joined the Northeast Networks for the webinar series. The next webinar will be hosted by Rhode Island on March 15th and will feature Jeff Smirk, Vice-President for Policy at the National Summer Learning Association, talking about a new vision for summer school.
- Jennifer Brady, formerly of the National Summer Learning Association, will be leading a Summer Learning Strand for ISS-AP. This special spring strand will follow the following schedule:
 - Wednesday, March 30th - Kick-off Webinar
 - Wednesday, April 6th – Summer Learning Workshop, 10am – 2pm, Burlington
 - April 11th – May 27th – Individual Consultations
 - Thursday, June 2nd – Summer Kick-Off Conference Call
 - Thursday, September 1st – Summer Reflection Conference Call
- The ten projects participating in the pilot of the YPQI process (Youth Program Quality Intervention) have completed two more trainings and have their final set of workshops on March 15th. Using program assessment data from the fall observations, the group selected three youth worker methods trainings to be presented at this final workshop: Building Community; Planning and Reflection; and Voice and Choice.
- Under our new grant with the Child Development Division (brought over through the VSACN merger) we will be offering a training at the end of April for anyone interested in learning how to be a coach for NIOST’s quality improvement system (i.e., APAS/SAYO).
- Kerrie Workman organized a Professional Development work group meeting in partnership with the Center on December 1st in Waterbury. The purpose of the meeting was to get feedback and direction on evaluation measures and tools for several key components of Vermont’s Professional Development system for afterschool professionals.
- Over the next few months, Kerrie Workman will be organizing a small group to participate in a review of the draft of the Nationally Recognized Core Competencies for Afterschool and Youth Development Professionals, as well as, moving forward with a side-by-side review of Vermont’s Core Competencies for After school Professionals.

Highlights

- Jennifer Brady will be coaching an ISS-AP strand on Summer Learning starting at the end of March
- Jeff Smirk, Vice-President of Policy at the National Summer Learning Association, will present a webinar on March 15th for the Northeast Networks.

Lights! Camera! Learning! Project and Video Vignette Competition

- Winning videos from our third round of *Lights! Camera! Learning!* videos were shown at the Vermont Afterschool Legislative Luncheon.
- Winning programs each received \$1000 and a 6-pack of Flip video cameras. The winning videos will be posted on our website shortly, as soon as all student permission forms are confirmed.
- Winning videos:
 - 1) Elementary Program:
Afterschool Program: The Y at Underhill
Showcased Program: Photography in Action
Submitted by: John Bucher
 - 2) Middle/ High School Program:
Afterschool Program: Bellows Falls Middle School 21C Afterschool Program
Showcased Program: Television Production
Submitted by: Orianna Baez
- The next round of the *Lights! Camera! Learning!* competition will wrap up a year from now. This will fall in the third and final year of our Achievement Grant from Mott and we are looking to build this final round even more than the previous three. We have plans to run an ISS-AP Strand to teach programs how to create effective videos to highlight their programs and to provide other supports and incentives to build participation in the final year.

Funding and Sustainability Efforts

- We received \$10,000 from the United Way of Chittenden County in December to help fund the collaborative database project with the Burlington Citywide Afterschool Coalition.
- Jessie B. Cox Grant (\$80,000 over 2 years)- the partners in the Burlington Citywide Afterschool Coalition participated in a “site visit” conference call with the consultant in charge of our grant at GMA Foundations. Award decisions are expected the week of March 7th.
- Supporting Student Success Grant (\$50,000 over 18 months)- we will begin work on the S3 grant this spring which is due in May. In order to successfully apply for this grant, we need to show strong partnership with the legislature, the governor’s office, and the education department.

Highlights

- Received \$10,000 from the United Way of Chittenden County to support the database project of the Burlington Citywide Afterschool Coalition

Next Steps and Partner Points

- We will be working on the S3 grant this spring. The grant requires the involvement of at least two of the following: state legislator, high-level VTDOE official, and governor’s education policy director.

The Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence is a statewide public-private partnership committed to building a strong foundation for Vermont’s youth. The work of the Center directly supports programs that provide innovative learning opportunities beyond the school day for all Vermont’s children and youth. The Center’s activities are directed toward building the capacity and commitment of communities to increase the quality and availability of programs during non-school hours.

For more information about the Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence visit:
www.vermontafterschool.org