

**Quarterly Report to the Partner Advisory Council
SEPTEMBER 2011**

The timing is good for us to be coming back together at the start of a new school year. Our last partner meeting in June had such positive energy and good discussion that it was easy to take that energy forward into the summer. Thank you for that! This summer we worked on developing our consultant team and coordinating large pieces of our work. We are excited about the number of trainings that are being offered, the responses so far to the ISS-AP strands and scheduled state meetings, and how things are shaping up for the Vermont Afterschool Conference on October 21st. I also spent a number of weeks taking a course on nonprofit financial management and exploring the in's and out's of financial reporting and board responsibilities should we decide to move forward with forming our own nonprofit for the Vermont Center.

At the same time, as we look forward to a new year with new opportunities and initiatives we are deeply conscious of the challenges faced by many of our friends and colleagues as they work to recover from the storm and flooding that affected so communities throughout the state. Community is something that we have been talking about as a theme for this year, especially in our work growing our membership body and building our professional learning communities. And it is something that I hope this partner group will foster and strengthen as we look at the financial health and sustainability of the organization, determine joint priorities in support of programs throughout the state, and continue to come together as a strong, direction-setting body for Vermont Afterschool.

In partnership and community,
Holly Morehouse, Director

*If you have not already done so, please
make plans to join us for the*

Vermont Afterschool Conference

**October 21, 2011 * Sheraton Hotel and
Conference Center * South Burlington *
8:00am-4:00pm**

Partner Advisory Council 2011-2012

- Ginny Burley, Community Connections and Afterschool Ambassador Emeritus
- Jeff Fournier, Burlington Afterschool
- Nicole Mace, Voices for Vermont's Children
- Mike Mrowicki, Putney Family Services and Vermont State Representative
- Ken Page, Vermont Principals Association
- Tricia Pawlik, Greater Burlington YMCA
- MaryBeth Pinard-Brace, Vermont Family Network and PIRC-VT
- Kreig Pinkham, Washington County Youth Services Bureau/Boys & Girls Club
- Barb Russ, Winooski School District
- Heather Schneider, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
- Lindsay Simpson, Vermont Department of Education
- Rich Tulikangas, Linking Learning to Life
- Jan Walker, Child Development Division, Dept of Children and Families, Vermont Agency of Human Services
- Darlene Worth, Champlain Valley Educator Development Center

Center Operations

- We would like to extend a warm welcome to Kerrie Workman. Kerrie has worked as a professional development consultant for the Child Development Division, Department of Children and Families, for 5-6 years. Her contract was previously run through the Community College of Vermont (CCV). Starting in July, her contract and the work associated with it moved over to the Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence.
- In support of our information gathering effort on becoming a nonprofit, Holly took a 5-week online course on Nonprofit Financial Management through the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). The course is one of six that UIC offers through their Certificate in Nonprofit Management. The course provided excellent instruction and resources on financial management systems, financial reports, roles and responsibilities of board members and others, legal reporting requirements as they relate to donor acknowledgements, lobbying activities and annual governmental reporting.
- Mark Favazza completed another full round of updates and improvements for the website. Website updates from Mark include making the front page editable, implementing a new footer design, upgrading the site to Word Press 3.2, and establishing daily backups.
- Former PAC member and partner, Karen Scott, has offered her time starting in the fall providing five or so hours per week volunteering with the Center. It will be great to be able to continue working with Karen in this way and to keep this connection with her.
- Holly will attend a required Mott grantee meeting in DC at the end of September. The meeting theme is "Expanding Horizons: The Power of Afterschool and Future of Learning." All network leads from the 40 states funded by Mott will be in attendance.
- Our end of year report for Year 2 under the Mott grant is due by the end of October. This report will cover the grant year from October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2011. This coming year will be our third and final year under the current Mott grant. We plan to apply for a new grant in the spring and will be looking for the grant announcement around January/February 2012.
- 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. We currently have 75 monthly active users on our Facebook page and have collected a total of 108 fans (up from 101 last quarter).
- We continue to use our Mail Chimp account to communicate with programs, partners, and advocates. We have a total of 496 subscribers, 34 new subscribers since January 1st, 2011, and an open rate around 20%.

Highlights

- Kerrie Workman has joined our consultant team to work on professional development systems under the CDD/DCF grant.
- Former partner Karen Scott will be volunteering with the Vermont Center five or so hours per week.

Next Steps and Partner Points

- If you haven't done so already, new partners are encouraged to become "friends" of the Vermont Center on Facebook.

Partnership Development

- The Burlington Citywide Afterschool Coalition held a one day retreat in June to draft a complete work plan and timeline for the coming school year. Over the summer the Coalition created a Memorandum of Agreement for all partners, is expanding the use of the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) tool to other partners in the city, and continues to work on developing a data sharing agreement in line with the school district's data policies and procedures.

- Holly was invited to make a presentation to the United Way’s Education Community Impact Team. It was a great opportunity to share information about the effectiveness of afterschool programs, our data from the mapping report on the numbers and types of programs, the needs and challenges of programs in Vermont (particularly in Chittenden County), and what we would advise them to consider as potential funding priorities in this area.
- At the United Way meeting, we made a good contact with Paula Francis, Director of the state mentoring project, Vermont Mentoring Partnerships. We will be following up with her in the fall as we look at potential connections and/or collaborations.
- Holly met with Anna Adachi-Mejia, Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Dartmouth Medical School. Dr. Adachi-Mejia is doing work in the area of childhood obesity prevention. She currently has two grants looking at different interventions and strategies implemented through afterschool programs. We talked about ways to extend her work into Vermont. Holly also met with Lindsay Simpson about creating a stronger focus on health and wellness in afterschool this year.
- Over the summer and into the new school year we’ve been engaged in conversations with both of our major state funders to make sure our work under the grants is in line with expectations and needs and that we are informed and in tune with any developments within VT Department of Education (VTDOE) and/or Child Development Division, Department of Children and Families (CDD/DCF).
- In our partnership with Northern Lights Career Development Center, Kerrie has been working with their committee on drafting a new version of the Career Advising Guide. The Guide is designed for early educators and afterschool professionals and for persons in these fields who provide supervision and career guidance. It outlines the professional development opportunities and supporting resources available in Vermont and illustrates how they can connect to three common career tracts within the Afterschool field: child care, youth work, and education.

Policy and Advocacy

- The Afterschool Alliance has set October 20th, 2011, as the 12th *Annual National Lights On Afterschool* day. We’ve registered the Vermont Afterschool Conference as our statewide *Lights On* afterschool event and will be encouraging programs throughout the state to hold local events to spread awareness about their programs and to celebrate the important role that afterschool plays in communities throughout Vermont.
- The Afterschool Alliance updated their online “State Pages” this summer, and we worked with them to get more recent information into the Vermont profile. There are still a number of places where we could still provide additional local items under “News & Voices” to tell the Vermont story. We will be tracking this over the next year.
- Earlier in the summer there were two Senate bills concerning 21st CCLC legislation in DC that we were watching and encouraging others to learn more about. The first was a bill sponsored by Senator Sanders and opens up 21C funding to include Extended Day programs (including more time for teacher PD) as a priority (S. 1311). The second, the Boxer/Murkowski/Murray bill (S. 1370), is called the Afterschool for America's Children Act and looks to add language to clarify and strength certain aspects of 21st CCLC as it currently stands. The second bill is supported by the Afterschool Alliance and more than 120 other national, state, and local organizations.
- Holly has an appointment to meet with Senator Sanders’ legislative assistant, Jessica Cardichon, while in

Highlights

- Events celebrating *Lights On Afterschool* will be held in programs and communities throughout the state in October. The national *Lights On* celebration day is October 20th.

Next Steps and Partner Points

- Save the Date! This year’s Vermont Afterschool Legislative Day will be held on February 29th, 2012.

DC as a tag on to the Mott meeting at the end of September. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss efforts to support Vermont afterschool programs in building extended day-type partnerships with local schools.

- Kerrie has started work pulling together the information and documentation needed to get the revised afterschool regulations into shape for the public review and promulgation process. This substantial piece of work for the Center will continue to be a major focus this fall.
- Holly and Sue presented a request to the STARS Oversight Committee to have the YPQA tool added to the list of approved options for STARS applicants. The request was approved, and we are working on getting the remaining information in place to make it official.
- We plan to meet with the STARS coordinators quarterly throughout the year to stay abreast of issues and how we can best support programs together. In addition, Sue has submitted her name to join the STARS Oversight Committee to help represent afterschool programs in those discussions and to bring information from that committee back to the Center to inform our work.

Professional Development and High-quality Programs

- Our new booklet outlining all professional development opportunities for the 2011-2012 was mailed to all programs in our database in July. All offerings are also detailed online on our website and an electronic version of the professional development booklet is available for download from the site as well. (<http://vermontafterschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/PD-Brochure-2011-12.pdf>)
- Already this year, 20 of our staff training workshops have been requested and ten have been held. Requests are coming in from a mix of programs and Resource Development Specialists around the state.
- We added a number of new trainers and workshops to the offerings this year and those have been very popular in the requests thus far. We are working on solidifying our trainer application process and are implementing a pilot run of a new evaluation tool for the staff trainings.
- ISS-AP registrations have started coming in. We have scheduled four training dates for all participants in the ISS-AP Coaching Model. These trainings will be held at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, VT. The nine ISS-AP Strands for this year are listed below:

Fall 2011

- Financial Management (coaches: Jenifer Holland and Rachel Scott, The Finance Project)
- Video Production to Promote Afterschool (coach: Luke Stafford, Mondo Mediaworks; Sara McKellogg, Gypsy Carolina Mediaworks)
- Create Capacity to Create, Teach, and Build Community (coach: Jen Stanchfield, Experiential Tools)
- Youth Program Quality Intervention (coach: Holly Morehouse and the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality)

Highlights

- Ten staff training workshops have been held since July and another ten are scheduled in the coming months.
- Fall ISS-AP strands start Sept. 15th with time for a statewide meeting, lunch, and networking built into the day.
- We will be training 10-12 individuals through the Weikart Center's Training of Trainers 6-week program this fall. All successful participants will be trained in delivering the 10 Youth Worker Methods workshops that support the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) process.

Next Steps and Partner Points

- If know of any programs or professionals who might be interested in any of our professional development opportunities, please direct them to our website and let them know that there are still some scholarship options available.

- Setting a Vision for Excellence in Summer Programming (coach: Jennifer Brady)

Spring 2012

- Building Literacy Skills in Afterschool (coach: Barbara Russ)
- Science, Engineering, and Technology in Afterschool (coach: Sarah Kleinman, UVM Extension 4-H)
- Raising Funds to Support Afterschool (Christine Graham, CPG Enterprises)
- Positive Discipline Techniques (Eric Gurna, Development Without Limits)
- The five week Training of Trainers to support the Youth Program Quality Assessment and program improvement process will start in October. Weekly webinars and online work for four weeks will be followed by 3 ½ days of training on-site in November. We have 10 participants registered to become trainers (full capacity for the project budget).
- Two applications for the Vermont Afterschool Professional Credential have been received. In addition, Kerrie is also currently working with two applicants for the Vermont Afterschool Foundations Certificate.
- A pre-course evaluation instrument has been developed and integrated into the registration process for the *Introduction to Afterschool Education & Care course* (which is required for the Vermont Afterschool Professional Credential). The course has a full registration with 16 participants.
- The new *Afterschool Essentials* course was successfully linked to the satisfaction of requirements for the Vermont Afterschool Foundations Certificate (VAFC). For new Afterschool professionals, this establishes a direct link between the course and an existing professional development opportunity. The course is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, September 7th, and run through December 14th (13 weeks). Unfortunately, registrations have been slow to come in for the course. We will be looking at the numbers and options again this week to see how to proceed.
- All SFY 12 CDD afterschool grantees received a letter from us letting them know about the Mentors for Quality Program. Sue has started to make matches with mentors for those sites who responded.
- We have arranged for a “Quality Coaching” training for current and new mentors through the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality. The date for the training is Friday, September 16, 2011.

Vermont Afterschool Conference 2011

- The **Vermont Afterschool Conference will be held on Friday, October 21, 2011**, at the Sheraton in Burlington. Ray McNulty of the International Center for Educational Leadership will be the keynote speaker. The conference is being organized by a 7-member committee. Registration opened in August.
- Workshop selections were made in June for the 30 available slots. All presenters were contacted and confirmed over the summer. We are now working on recruiting exhibitors and raffle donations. All workshops have been added into the Bright Futures Information System.
- We formed a subcommittee to work on the Vermont Afterschool Professional award application and selection process. The request for nominations went out in August.

Highlights

- We hope all partners will attend the conference this year. We will reserve seats at a front table for partners during the morning keynote and for the luncheon.

Next Steps and Partner Points

- Partners are invited to serve on an awards committee to review the applications for the Afterschool Professional of the Year Award. If you are interesting in helping to select this year’s recipient, please speak to Sue Kamp, Barb Russ, or Ginny Burley.

Membership Development

- Over the summer the Membership Committee created the structure for an organizational membership with varying levels depending on the size of the organization. One of the new benefits created for organizations is the option to request one staff training for free from the Center.
- New membership forms have started to come in for both professional level individuals and organizations at a number of different levels. We expect to see a significant increase in new members as a result of the membership drive centered around the Vermont Afterschool Conference in October.
- We made an internal shift in workloads among the consultants and Lynne is going to take over the membership piece from Sue. Membership fits well with Lynne's work on marketing and advocacy. This change is effective as of the end of August.
- We are supporting the formation of regional meetings for members in different parts of the state. The first regional group to form is in the Bennington/Arlington area and they have met together twice so far. A second group recently held their first meeting in the Franklin County/Grand Isle area. A third group in Addison County is starting by putting together an online community first with plans to meet face-to-face in October. We're looking at getting the next group going in the Randolph area over the next couple of months. The purpose of the regional groups is to support networking among members in different parts of the state. We also hope to use the groups to share information about resources, trainings, advocacy efforts, and possible joint funding opportunities.

Funding and Sustainability Efforts

- Due to a couple of expansions/additions in work areas, our grant from the Child Development Division, Department of Children and Families was increased to \$194,149 for the current year. Additional areas of work included Kerrie Workman's contract as the professional development systems consultant and work on the revised afterschool licensing regulations.
- In June we also received word that our grant application to the Vermont Department of Education was accepted. This grant allows us to continue our work providing support and resources to 21st CCLC programs in the areas of professional development, evaluation, sustainability, best practices, and technical assistance. This grant is a three year award for \$145,675/year.
- Our current operating budget for the 2011-2012 school year is \$492,825. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. By far, our largest area of expense is for personnel.

Highlights

- We received a one-year grant from CDD/DCF for \$194,149 to provide supports and resources for regulated, licensed afterschool programs.
- We received a 3-year grant from VTDOE for \$145,675 to support 21C programs.

Next Steps and Partner Points

- We are still looking for sponsors for the *Lights! Camera! Learning!* competition. If you have contacts or program supporters that may be interested in getting involved in this way, please let us know. Thank you!

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