



# from the Heart

## Vermont Family Network's E-Newsletter September

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### From VFN's President

Hello again! Happy back to school time! Where has the summer gone? Hope yours has been enjoyable, and that you are looking forward to the autumn days ahead. We have been busy here at VFN, finalizing an integrated database project for our Family Support team, incorporating changes in our Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention Team's work to meet new responsibilities for evaluation, and working on changes to make the VFN website more interesting and accessible.

We had a wonderful turnout for our [3rd Annual Kickball Tournament fundraiser](#), and heartily thank all the sponsors, volunteers, and participants who made the day a success! We are working on our Annual Appeal, and look forward to engaging you in that important fundraising effort as donors!

We have had some noteworthy staff transitions over the summer. Peg Manrique has been named as VFN's Human Resources Specialist, and Sarah Wallace-Brodeur has taken on the role of Administrative Coordinator for Children's Integrated Services/Early Intervention (CIS/EI). Theresa Soares has accepted a new role here as Family Resource Coordinator (FRC) Supervisor in CIS/EI. We said goodbye to CIS-EI Developmental Educator (DE) Kayla Proulx and FRC Kyle Hibbard last month as they moved on to new jobs. We have hired a new DE, Liz Clavelle. We are in the process of [hiring for positions](#) in CIS-EI, as well as a part-time Executive Assistant. Liv Smith-Hammond has joined Family Support as an intern through VABIR, and is working on some exciting transition projects for us.

We are working with our Vermont Early Childhood Alliance and Vermont Coalition on Disability Rights

Vermont Family Network. We appreciate your generosity!

partners to develop coordinated efforts around issues that affect children with special needs and their families for the 2015 legislative session. As you probably know, there have been rescissions in the state budget, and we are making collaborative efforts to ensure that services and supports are not negatively impacted. We welcome your input on concerns you have around children and youth with special needs and their families, so that we may be well-informed as we speak up for what we are hearing from families.

Please contact me at [Pam.McCarthy@vtn.org](mailto:Pam.McCarthy@vtn.org) and let me know what's on your mind! You can help us make a difference for children, youth, and families throughout Vermont!

From the heart,  
Pam McCarthy  
President/CEO

#### Register for a VFN Workshop Today!

Meet other families, learn new information, and share practical tips by attending one of VFN's upcoming free workshops:

- [\*\*Wells River: Advocating for Your Child:\*\*](#) Wednesday, September 10, 9am-11:30am
- [\*\*Bennington: Community Resource Parent Volunteer:\*\*](#) Two days on Wednesdays, September 17 and September 24, 9am-2pm
- [\*\*Newport: Advocating for Your Child:\*\*](#) Friday, September 26, 10am-11:30am
- [\*\*Wells River: Navigating Special Education and the IEP:\*\*](#) Wednesday, October 8, 9am-11:30am
- [\*\*Morristown: Advocating for Your Child:\*\*](#) Tuesday, October 14, 6 pm-8 pm
- [\*\*Newport: National Bullying Prevention Month: Community Forum:\*\*](#) Monday, October 20, 10am-11:30am
- [\*\*St. Albans: Community Resource Parent Volunteer:\*\*](#) Two days on Saturdays, October 25 and November 1, 9am-2pm.
- [\*\*Newport: Understanding Conflict:\*\*](#) Friday, November 21, 10am-11:30am

Please contact [Janice Sabett](#) 1-800-800-4005, x218 for questions, help in registering, or to request special accommodations.

## VFN's Healthcare Navigators are Here to Help!

Vermont Family Network has been chosen for another year as a navigator organization. With open enrollment ending last March, we have since then been busy working with families and individuals who have a qualifying event and need to enroll through Vermont Health Connect. Though Medicaid renewals are on hold for now we can help if you have questions about your coverage. We are also happy to help with any Katie Beckett Medicaid Applications, which are very lengthy and do not go through the exchange. These applications can be overwhelming! If you would like assistance related to healthcare enrollment please give us a call and ask to speak to a Healthcare Navigator 1-800-800-4005.

## Affordable Care Act and Children's Wellness

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) covers many aspects of wellness and prevention at no cost to families. For families of children with disabilities who may see multiple doctors, often the focus is on the condition. However, health promotion and prevention is also important for children with special needs. Wellness and preventive care are important to overall health, and making these services available without cost-sharing to families means that more children will receive these services.

The ACA requires that the following sets of services be provided to children without cost-sharing:

1. Immunizations for routine use that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
2. Evidence-informed preventive care and screenings provided for in the comprehensive guidelines supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which is a reference to the "Bright Futures" guidelines.

If you have questions about healthcare access, enrollment, funding, or any health related matter please call us at 1-800-800-4005. Our Healthcare Navigators and Healthcare Financing Specialist are happy to assist however we can to make sure children and family needs are met.

Prepare For a New School Year!

The [Positive Student Profile Form](#) can be a helpful tool to start up the new school year. With this, you can share information about your child's strengths, challenges and successes with the IEP team and your child's teacher. It can be adapted to fit your individual family needs; headings and categories may be changed to include the information that you feel is most important to share with the people working and interacting with your child. If your child is old enough, you can help her to complete the Positive Self-Profile. This process helps your child identify her strengths and needs and to begin the process of self-advocacy.

### Common Core State Standards & Your Child

Vermont, along with most other states, has adopted the [Common Core State Standards](#). These Standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and education experts to establish clear goals for learning that will prepare children for college and the workforce. To learn more about the Standards, you can watch a 3-minute [video](#), read our newest Common Core State Standards fact sheet on the [VFN website](#) or visit the [VT AOE website](#). The [Parents' Guides to Student Success](#) were developed by teachers, parents and education experts in response to the [Common Core State Standards](#). The Guides give you an overview of what your child should learn in each grade and how you can help. Give us a call when you have questions or need more information.

### Vermont's Part B Annual Performance Report

Children and youth (ages 3-22) receive special education and related services under Part B of IDEA. Part B is so named because it's the second part of the law itself. Each state is required by the federal department of education to have in place a performance plan evaluating the state's implementation of Part B and describing how the state will improve such implementation. This plan is called the Part B State Performance Plan (SPP). Each state also reports annually to the Secretary of Education on its performance in meeting its SPP targets. This report is called the Part B Annual Performance Report (APR). Read [Vermont's Part B State Performance Plans \(SPP\) Letters and Annual Performance Report \(APR\) Letters](#)

### New Fact Sheet About Immigrant Children and Education

The U.S. Department of Education has developed a new fact sheet, [Educational Services for Immigrant Children and Those Recently Arrived to the United States](#), which provides information to help families, advocates and education leaders better understand the responsibilities of the state and schools to immigrant students, and the existing resources available to help educate them - including children who have recently arrived in the United States.

## Employment Opportunities at VFN

### **Developmental Educator, 37.5 hours/week**

VFN has an opening for a dedicated professional to develop and implement specialized instruction and service coordination for families of infants and toddlers with special health and developmental needs in Chittenden County. Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Special Education and experience providing developmental services to children under the age of three with special health needs required.

### **Executive Assistant, 20 hours/week, Temporary**

Are you most comfortable working under deadlines, juggling several projects? VFN has a need for a topnotch assistant with a Bachelor's degree or equivalent education, experience working in a nonprofit, a proficiency in MS products, good judgment and discretion in handling confidential information, exceptional organizational skills, and attention to detail who will provide administrative support to the CEO/President.

### **Administrative Specialist, 20 hours/week**

VFN also has an opening for an Administrative Specialist to provide office support to the Early Intervention program. Must have an Associate's Degree, a minimum of 2 years office experience, MS Office skills, be detail oriented, well organized, flexible, and a team player.

Please send resume and cover letter to [HR@vtn.org](mailto:HR@vtn.org) or Vermont Family Network, 600 Blair Park, Suite 240, Williston, VT 05495. Vermont Family Network is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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