



# Vermont Afterschool

Partnerships, Advocacy, Training, and Resources for Excellence in Afterschool

## Quarterly Report: April 1 – June 30, 2018

In reflecting on our fiscal year that wraps up on June 30<sup>th</sup>, what an amazing year it's been! We started the fall with the Con Hogan award and celebration, supported youth in creating a Declaration of Youth Rights for Vermont, had our board honored at the national level with a Stand By Your Mission award, welcomed over 70 youth ambassadors at the State House, made new connections with colleagues in Finland, formed the VT9to26 Coalition, created incredibly effective SEL Communities of Practice, launched a new initiative to train high school students to teach STEM subjects in rural afterschool programs, saw Congress increase funding for afterschool, and are embarking on several exciting new funding partnerships. And that doesn't even come close to capturing it all.

We've also seen our families grow and our kids get older, welcomed Erin's new daughter, and picked up an office mascot—Tricia's dog Harper. We are excited for Tracy and her family on their new adventure and are curious to see what this next year will bring in the way of changes to our team, new partners, and expanding areas of work. As we launch our new three-year Strategic Plan for 2018-2021, we are ever grateful for the support of our board, our funders, and our partners. We are fortunate to be in an amazing, challenging, and ever-changing field and to work with so many strong, dedicated afterschool program directors, site coordinators, and staff all across the state.

Thank you as always for your continued partnership and support.

Happy summer!

Halley Morehouse, executive Director



## Center Operations

- Welcome back to Erin! After a 12-week maternity leave to care for baby June, Erin is returning to work and we sure are glad to have her expertise around all things data.
- After six years at Vermont Afterschool (and countless cups of coffee, compassionate conversations, and Zoom calls in the storage room), Tracy will be leaving her position to embark on a cross-country adventure with her family. Alongside her partner Beth and kids Faith and April, the Truzansky family will be traveling across America in their camper van and homeschooling along the way. They are selling their house and truly making a huge life change with the ultimate goal of quality time together. Tracy will be working through July and then will remain connected as an independent trainer.
- We completed our Strategic Plan for 2018-2021. The plan was submitted with the Mott Grant, which aligns for the same time period. We are really, truly, extremely excited about this work and where we are headed.
- The Finland trip was a huge success. Holly and Barb were able to meet with numerous youth workers at many different types of centers, administrators at the municipal and national levels, and young people in several cities across Finland. They returned with inspired ideas that relate to our work, as well as some very entertaining stories. In one email from Finland, Holly wrote, "Our heads are about to explode. But in a good way."
- Cheryl Mitchell, member of the Con Hogan award committee, interviewed Holly at Channel 17 to follow up on the award and help promote nominations for 2018. The recording will be aired a number of times in the coming weeks and also posted online through the Vermont Community Foundation's website.
- Cassie attended the Create Good Conference in Durham, NC in April. This conference included workshops specifically for nonprofit communicators, and she learned not only simple tricks of the trade (i.e. effective social media advertising) but also best practices around storytelling. The keynote by Michele Moore, the ACLU's Chief Communications Officer, was a highlight on how to stay resistant, relevant, and resilient.
- Tricia attended the Ready By 21 conference in Palm Beach Florida and met with our state contact person from the Weikart Center. Tricia also attended the National AfterSchool Association's Annual

### Board of Directors

**Raquel Aronhime**, Community Impact Manager- Education & Health, United Way of Chittenden County (*Secretary*)

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**Vicki Graf**, Principal, Jericho Elementary School

**Barbara Russ**, Former Director, Winooski 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC (*-Chair*)

**Vicky Smith**, Executive Director, King Street Youth Center

**Rich Tulikangas**, Director, Linking Learning to Careers

**Lauren Wooden**, Executive Director, Champlain Valley Educator Development Center

### Staff

**Alissa Faber**, Project Support Specialist

**Sara Forward**, SEL Project Coordinator

**Holly Morehouse**, Executive Director

**Tricia Pawlik-York**, Workforce and Program Improvement Coach

**Erin Schwab**, Research Analyst

**Tracy Truzansky**, Project Manager for Training

**Cassie Willner**, Communications Coordinator

Convention. As the Vermont state affiliate to NAA, Tricia attended for free and met with NAA and other state affiliates as part of our MOA.

- Since April 1, 2018, we had 1,462 visits to our website which is a 50% increase compared to the same period in FY17. We also saw the number of page views increase by 11% along with new users (57% increase). Subpages of the website that saw the greatest amounts of activity during this period are 1) McClure Grant; 2) Home Page; and 3) Professional Development Training.

### Policy and Advocacy

- We recently got a call from Senator Leahy's office to organize an afterschool site visit for the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee staff. Thanks to the willingness of Christy Gallese, Mandi Harris, and the Burlington School District Expanded Learning Program to host, Senate Appropriations Committee staff visited an afterschool program at Flynn Elementary School in the New North End of Burlington on May 31, 2018. The visit showcased how important federal funding like the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center program is to our Vermont communities.
- Holly presented at the Education and Prevention Subcommittee of the Marijuana Commission. Her talk focused on data and research that shows that afterschool is prevention in and of itself. Not only do afterschool programs help prevent risky behaviors in youth but they also help to build protective factors that support health development and positive outcomes for young people.
- Unfortunately, after many months of hard work and advocacy, the ELO Special Fund request was not funded in the final budget and the Opiate Tax Bill didn't make it through the entire process. However, the legislature did appropriate \$2.5million for substance use disorder prevention in the budget. These funds are not directed to specific groups or purposes. The Secretary of AHS will make recommendations to the legislature on how to use the funds in July 2018.
- After a lot of wheeling and dealing, twists and turns, and ups and downs, the ELO Working Group (formerly of H.270) was included in S.257 (Misc. Ed. Bill). And yet, S.257 did not make it out of the conference committee in time to pass before the legislature adjourned. Both sides had agreed to include the ELO language, but they could not come to an agreement on other issues in S.257, which ultimately proved fatal for the bill. This bill may be re-introduced during the ongoing special session to address the governor's veto of the budget and tax bills. Our champions are still working on a strategy to pass the ELO working group language in the ongoing special session—it's not over yet!
- Cassie and Holly attended the Afterschool for All Challenge in Washington, DC this past April. We were also joined by Tara Brooks who directs the Fusion afterschool program in Vergennes (which is both a 21C and licensed program). This is an annual advocacy event organized by the Afterschool Alliance designed to empower program and network staff to make Hill visits and meet with Congressional Delegations to discuss the importance of afterschool programs. We met with Senator Leahy and Representative Welch in person and had great conversations with their staffers about the value of afterschool in Vermont. Topics included key federal funding mechanisms such as 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, Child Care and Development Block Grant, and CTE/Perkins legislation.
- We had a short, yet impactful, visit from James Brown, director of the STEM Education Coalition, who came to the State House in April to testify on the STEM Ed Coalition's willingness to work with a national funder to support a STEM Fellow in VT for a year (if ELO language and funding are passed by the legislature). James met with Speaker Johnson, key afterschool champions, the Working

Vermonters Caucus, as well as testified in the House Human Services Committee and Senate Education Committee. In addition to lobbying for the STEM Fellow, he also highlighted the important link between afterschool STEM programs and workforce development.

## Partnership Development

- The team we took to the annual Mott meeting in DC turned out to be a great combo: Carolyn Weir (McClure Foundation and VT Community Foundation), Liz Schlegel (Alchemist Foundation), and Sara Chesbrough (VT Dept of Health). All of us got super jazzed about afterschool and in finding ways to partner with one another in new ways.
- In May, we had an outstanding meeting of the VT9to26 Coalition with committee work starting to flesh out action items for the next 6-12 months. Committees include: Youth Voice, Communications, Best Practices, and Policy. The group decided to meet three times over the summer with the goal of having a strategic plan in place by September.
- Holly has joined the Youth Services Advisory Council supported out of AHS and will serve as one of the co-chairs for the council going forward. The purpose of the Council is to coordinate and better align state agency efforts to support youth in Vermont.
- We are thrilled to be developing a deeper partnership with the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts with their agreement to lead a full day strand at conference.
- Nicole LaPointe of the Northern VT Area Health Education Center (AHEC) attended the 2018 STEM Summit in Huntsville, AL, with Tracy as long-standing STEM partner around the MedTrek program. We currently have a joint proposal in for STEM Ignite Fund to expand MedTrek as a workforce development project in FY19.
- Tracy and Tricia have met twice with the new CCV Resource Advisors who are supporting career advising and technical assistance needs for the early childhood and afterschool workforce. Both meetings were highly productive in terms of information sharing, resources, and education around what we do to support afterschool professionals.
- Tricia continues to represent our organization at the STARS oversight committee, STARS evolution committee, and the PPD committee at the state level.
- Holly, Lynne Robbins, and Becky Millard traveled together to Baltimore for the Infant/Toddler and School-age conference. Holly presented in a workshop on funding strategies that highlighted Vermont Afterschool's work with CDD. Vermont is also featured in an accompanying brief: <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/combining-resources-support-quality-out-school-time-programs>

### SAVE THE DATE

- The next meeting for the **VT 9to29 Coalition for Youth Work and Policy** will be on June 27, 2018 at 1-3pm. Let us know if you would like to come! It's not too late to join.

## Professional Development and High-Quality Programs

- We produced a new STEM Pathways video that highlights the great work-based learning happening thanks to the McClure grant. Filmed and edited by Mondo Mediaworks, the video can be viewed online and we encourage folks to share it on their own social media pages.
- We are in the process of planning for the annual Vermont Afterschool Conference on November 2, 2018. Great news: Milton Chen will be our 2018 keynote speaker! Milton is a senior fellow at George Lucas Educational Foundation and author of *The Rise of Any Time, Any Place, Any Path, Any Pace Learning: Afterschool and Summer as the New American Frontier for Innovative Learning* (Expanding Minds and Opportunities Compendium 2013).
- Our current trainer list includes seven new trainers in FY18 and six partnerships, including UVM 4-H, VEEP, Montshire Museum, Bonnyvale Center, VSA Vermont, and SWEEP.
- As of May 25, 2018, 86 total professional development trainings across 12 counties have been completed for FY18 with 73 trainings hosted by licensed afterschool programs. We've also had 18 YPQI trainings, 18 STEM trainings, 48 SEL trainings, and with an estimated 1080 total participants in FY18.
- Our Afterschool Professional Learning Strands wrapped up in May with a total of 30 participants across the STEM, SEL, and Program Quality strands. Data from evaluations noted the following level of satisfaction:
  - Pacing of Strand = 93%
  - Balance of F2F and Individual Coaching = 93%
  - Accessibility of Coach = 100%
  - Connection to Peers in Strand = 80%
  - New knowledge = 100%
  - Apply what I learned = 100%
  - Clear objectives = 100%
  - Responsive to participants needs = 100%
  - Overall, liked it = 100%
  - Worth my time = 100%
  - Help me do my job better = 100%
- The Child Development Division grant proposals were received on May 1, 2018. We received six grants requests this year for program quality improvement or start-up/expansion. The grant committee awarded three Quality Improvement grants and an Expansion grant totaling \$16,210.
- The L.E.A.D. (Leadership Exploration And Development) group met for their final meeting on June 6 around the topic of working with vulnerable populations. This group of 15 leaders in the afterschool field has completed a year-long program of leadership development. Our goal is for this group to now serve as a leadership committee for afterschool issues on the state level.

### WATCH OUR NEW VIDEO

Our new video on the STEM Pathways project is here!  
[vermontafterschool.org/stem/mcclure-grant](http://vermontafterschool.org/stem/mcclure-grant)

- Twenty school age professionals submitted applications for the Vermont Afterschool Foundations certificate and received it in this quarter.
- Ten afterschool professionals are working participating in the free Afterschool Essentials course. The final training will be June 12 with final portfolios due June 30.
- We are now taking applications for the 3-credit, online Fall 2018 CCV course *Introduction to Afterschool Education*.
- Plans for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) regional training opportunities are underway and will begin in September, with hopes of connecting afterschool professionals with community partners through shared learning opportunities and skill-building groups rooted in social and emotional teachings.
- SEL Communities of Practice, led by Sara, in Burlington and South Royalton wrapped up for the year in May with very positive feedback and plans to continue both groups in FY19. In sum, 14 afterschool program sites were served by the communities of practice this year.
- Here's a fantastic quote from an afterschool professional re SEL training: "Receiving the coaching and training with Sara gave our staff a common language for talking with children about their feelings and the difference between comfortable and uncomfortable feelings. It gave us the ability to unpack behavior and normalize anxiety and gave an added layer of emotional processing and provided a framework for harder conversations about group dynamics."

### Funding and Sustainability Efforts

- We recently submitted our application for a new three-year grant from the Mott Foundation. Comments from the review committee were positive with only a few small points needing clarification.
- Vermont Afterschool has been awarded \$100,000 from the Northfield Savings Bank Foundation for a two-year project to expand SEL training and support through Chittenden, Washington, and Orange Counties. We are very excited about this opportunity and look forward to rolling out a new SEL Leadership Institute next year as part of this effort.
- We are also thrilled to share that Vermont Afterschool was selected as one of only two new statewide "Cornerstone Partners" by the Vermont Community Foundation. This three-year partnership and \$180,000 grant will allow us to focus efforts on out-of-school time programming and supports for middle and high school youth throughout Vermont.
- Finally, we were excited to hear that our proposal for a second year of funding from the McClure Foundation was successful. This grant will allow us to continue the STEM Pathways project, training high school students in rural Vermont to teach STEM-based programming in afterschool programs.

*Vermont Afterschool, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization committed to building a strong foundation for Vermont's youth. Our work directly supports programs that provide innovative learning opportunities beyond the school day for all Vermont's children and youth. Vermont Afterschool'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 on Vermont Afterschool, Inc. visit:  
[www.vermontafterschool.org](http://www.vermontafterschool.org)