

From: Blackman, Jessica [Jessica.Blackman@vermont.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 2:01 PM
To: Aubrey Boyles; Ancel, Charlotte
CC: Gingras, Jessica
Subject: RE: Blue Ribbon meeting

Hi Aubrey –

Thank you for your comments. We will be archiving them on the Blue Ribbon Commission's website (<http://buildingbrightfutures.org/blue-ribbon-commission/>) and sharing them with commissioners. I would also encourage you to contact Lets Grow Kids directly with this feedback. Moreover, the Blue Ribbon Commission's public forums would be a good place to share these concerns. They will be held the week of July 25th, I will let you know exact dates, times and locations once they are finalized.

We really appreciate your input, thank you for taking the time to put your thoughts into words.
Best,
~Jessica

From: Aubrey Boyles [mailto:aubreyhallamboyles@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 6:59 AM
To: Ancel, Charlotte <Charlotte.Ancel@greenmountainpower.com>
Cc: Blackman, Jessica <Jessica.Blackman@vermont.gov>; Gingras, Jessica <Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Blue Ribbon meeting

Hi Charlotte and Jessica,

I hope your meeting went well last night. I know the BRC doesn't meet again until July but I'd love to submit my thoughts now. I know the BRC's purpose is 1.) to review reports relating to high quality, affordable child care, 2.) to determine the essential elements essential in quality child care programs; and 3.) to make recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor on the best way to use public funding. I'm sure the BRC has reviewed the Stalled at the Start report released by Let's Grow Kids and therefore think it relevant to share a some concerns I have with the report regarding it's accuracy and the impact it's had on child care providers and the public.

1.) The report claims, without adequate grounds, that Vermont is experiencing a crisis in regards to the availability of high-quality child care. Participation in STARS is optional and there is no application process for legally exempt providers to participate making STARS an extremely incomplete tool of measurement. There could be a crisis regarding the availability of high-quality child care but we currently have no way to measure that.

2.) The report's assumptions that high-quality child care is limited to those choosing to earn 4 and 5 stars is contrary to the STARS program's own statements to providers. Participating providers are told that every star is an indication of going above and beyond standard regulations. STARS sends providers who've chosen to get one, two, three, four and five stars a Certificates of Achievement suggesting it should be hung proudly for families and children to see. It seems completely inappropriate for Let's Grow Kids to step in and declare the majority of the programs across the state to be not "high-

quality" simply because they haven't chosen to get 4 or 5 *optional* stars or in the legally exempt provider's case *haven't even been able to participate* in STARS.

3.) The Stalled at the Start report itself and the many times Let's Grow Kids has referenced it on WCAX, WDEV, VPR, VTDigger, Facebook, Twitter, etc. seems to defame providers with zero, one, two, or three stars. Not only does the report clearly imply that these providers do a *not* high-quality job but it goes another step and lists them as a contributing factor in "stalling" or being a "hazard" regarding the education and development of the children in their care.

4.) The report misrepresents the availability of child care to the public by completely leaving out legally exempt providers. The report also misrepresents the situation regarding high-quality care to the public by suggesting that by choosing a provider with anything less than 4 or 5 stars parents are putting their child in a "hazard" or "stalled" situation.

Thank you for reading. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,
Aubrey Boyles

On Wed, Jun 15, 2016 at 3:32 PM, Ancel, Charlotte
<Charlotte.Ancel@greenmountainpower.com> wrote:

You will be missed. Thanks Aubrey!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 15, 2016, at 2:55 PM, Aubrey Boyles <aubreyhallamboyles@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Charlotte and Jessica,

I'm sorry to say that I won't be able to make the Blue Ribbon Commission meeting tomorrow night. I will try to submit written testimony at a later time. Thank you for your kind and welcoming response to my initial inquiry about attending the meeting.

All the best,
Aubrey Boyles

On Fri, Jun 10, 2016 at 1:54 PM, Blackman, Jessica
<Jessica.Blackman@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Aubrey –

Yes, the public is welcome at all BRC meetings. June's meeting will be held in the fourth floor conference room of the Pavilion (109 State St., Montpelier VT). If you DO plan on attending, I will need to add your name to the list we submit to security for meeting attendees. You will need to bring a valid form of identification to present to security.

We've built in a public comment period at the end of the meeting – from roughly 12:10-12:25. A reminder that this Commission's mandate is to research how to finance high-quality affordable childcare.

In the event that you cannot attend, we are happy to receive your written (please email it to us) and we will archive it on our website.

<http://buildingbrightfutures.org/blue-ribbon-commission/>

Thanks. Please let me know if you have any questions.

~Jessica

From: Ancel, Charlotte [mailto:Charlotte.Ancel@greenmountainpower.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2016 9:49 PM
To: Aubrey Boyles <aubreyhallamboyles@gmail.com>
Cc: Blackman, Jessica <Jessica.Blackman@vermont.gov>; Gingras, Jessica <Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov>

Subject: Re: Blue Ribbon meeting

Hi Aubrey,

Of course! Connecting you with Jessica Blackman and Jessica Gingras by this email can help answer your question better. Really excited that we will get your participation and looking forward to hearing your thoughts!

Best,

Charlotte

From: Aubrey Boyles <aubreyhallamboyles@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, June 9, 2016 8:19 AM
To: Charlotte Ancel <charlotte.ancel@greenmountainpower.com>
Subject: Re: Blue Ribbon meeting

Hi Charlotte,

Thanks for getting back to me. Can you tell me if there'll be time for public comments? Alternatively, if I'm unable to make it (I'll have to find a substitute care giver for my day care), would it be acceptable to submit written testimony and have it read?

Thank you,
Aubrey

On Thu, Jun 9, 2016 at 5:55 AM, Ancel, Charlotte
<Charlotte.Ancel@greenmountainpower.com> wrote:

Great please do and yes they sure are open to the public. We would love to have

Best

Charlotte

From: Aubrey Boyles <aubreyhallamboyles@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, June 6, 2016 1:13 PM
To: Charlotte Ancel <charlotte.ancel@greenmountainpower.com>
Subject: Blue Ribbon meeting

Hi Charlotte,

I'm wondering if the Blue Ribbon Commission meetings are open to the public? I'd attend the June 16th meeting if possible.

Best,

Aubrey Boyles

Registered Home Provider

Montpelier