

Parent Child Center Bill – S.263

Parent Child Centers were established in Vermont statute in the late 1990s. Since that time, the Parent Child Center Network of providers has become more formalized and has worked to establish consistency and quality in service delivery for families across the state. The PCC Bill attempts to bring that new level of formality into statute and establish clear accountability for the PCCs as they deliver essential state services

The Parent Child Center bill proposes to:

1. Establish a Parent Child Center Network to ensure accountability among and distribute funding to designated parent child centers;
2. amend the criteria for designation as a parent child center;
3. appropriate base funding to the Parent Child Center Network; and
4. establish an annual inflation factor to monies appropriated to the Parent Child Center Network.

Parent Child Center Network (PCCN): The bill establishes the PCCN as an Agency of Human Services' community partner comprised of designated parent child centers that ensures accountability and collaboration among designated Parent Child Centers.

Parent Child Centers (PCCs): The bill defines a PCC as that serves as a central hub and lead provider of primary prevention services for families with young children on behalf of the State.

The bill would establish a process wherein the PCCN recommends designation as a PCC to the Agency of Human Services, and PCCs are re-designated every 6 years, with reviews every 3 years by the PCCN to ensure that the PCC is meeting the criteria established in the bill. The Secretary of AHS will also review the recommendations before a PCC is designated as such.

PCC Criteria: The criteria for a PCC designation in the bill are that the PCC must:

- Receive some funding from one or more private, local, or federal sources. Contributions in kind, whether material, commodities, transportation, or office space, may be used to satisfy the contribution requirement of this subdivision.
- Qualify for tax exempt status under the provisions of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Have parent representation on its board of directors.
- Represent a designated geographic catchment area.
- Complete a peer review every three years, which shall be conducted by the Parent Child Center Network.
- Provide 8 Core Services (outlined below)
- Indicate an intention to participate in the Parent Child Center Network as a member.
- Work to achieve population level quality of life outcomes related to children and families pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2311.

The bill also says that if a PCC receives state funding, per this new statute, it must:

- provide leadership in the coordination of services for families with other community service providers;
- provide such financial or programmatic information as may be necessary to enable the Secretary of Human Services to evaluate the services provided through grant funds, the effect of such services on consumers of these
- services and an accounting of the expenditure of grant funds;
- participate in the peer review process conducted by the parent child center network and the Agency of Human Services

Eight Core Services: The bill would require designated PCCs to provide the following eight core services:

1. home visits;
2. early childhood services;
3. parent education;
4. playgroups;
5. parent support groups;
6. concrete supports;
7. community development; and
8. resources and referrals.

Funding: The bill would establish an annual base appropriation for the PCCs to provide the Eight Core Services. The bill requires that the PCCN and the Agency of Human Services develop an accountability system to ensure quality standards are being met and the population outcomes are being achieved. It also requires that an annual inflation factor be applied to the funding, so that increases follow inflation. The bill sets the base level funding at \$7.5million.

Currently, there are 15 Parent Child Centers:

1. ADDISON COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER - Middlebury
2. EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES/WINDHAM CTY - Brattleboro
3. PARENT CHILD CENTER OF NORTHWESTERN COUNSELING & SUPPORT SERVICES – St. Albans
4. FAMILY CENTER OF WASHINGTON CTY - Montpelier
5. THE FAMILY PLACE - Norwich
6. LAMOILLE FAMILY CENTER - Morrisville
7. LUND - Burlington
8. MILTON FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER - Milton
9. THE JANET S. MUNT FAMILY ROOM - Burlington
10. NEKCA/PARENT CHILD CENTER NORTH - Newport
11. NEKCA/PARENT CHILD CENTER SOUTH – St. Johnsbury
12. ORANGE COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER - Tunbridge
13. RUTLAND COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER - Rutland
14. SPRINGFIELD AREA PARENT CHILD CENTER –Springfield
15. SUNRISE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER – Bennington

