**November 18, 2014 Rutland BBF Council Meeting Notes**

The Regional Council met at the Rutland County Parent Child Center for the November Meeting: Those present were Peg Bolgioni, Jan Krantz, Lynn Klamm, Sue Densmore, and Lisa Velasquez.

**Welcome Baby Bags Review**

General Background on Welcome Baby Bags. They are funded by direct service grant administered by the Rutland County Parent Child Center. The bags contain books, development wheel, and lots of other valuable resource information for parents. There was a question raised as to how much each bag costs, and Peg will research that information and report back to the committee. The objective of the Welcome Baby Bags is for BBF to build relationships with new parents and help them connect with local resources and organizations.

The group discussed ways to expand our outreach and perhaps align with other community partners as ways

to market and distribute more bags. Currently we hand out the bags based on referrals from RRMC, WIC, RAVNAH (Children’s Integrated Services). We also get referrals from the Family Place, an organization in Norwich, VT who connects with Rutland County Parents having babies at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. In the past Rutland BBF has collaborated with the Vermont Department of Health for a Baby Shower event last spring which was successful. Those are the types of partnerships that are so helpful to our mission.

Peg reaches out personally to the referrals with a phone call, checking in on how they’re doing, and if they have questions about resources etc. Then as a follow up she mails them the baby bag information with a welcome letter from BBF.

Lisa brought up a unique idea that we might implement. She suggested BBF put together a laminated card with important resource information, dates of BBF events. The card could also have a QRC code imprinted

on it which parents could scan with their smart phones, and it would link them to the BBF Website or other sites for information. These cards would be distributed to new parents through CIS, RPCC (Lynn Gould), Lisa

Velasquez (WIC), and parents would have to contact BBF to redeem their Welcome Baby Bag. When parents contacted Peg at BBF she can collect their personal information. Another thought was to have Welcome Baby

Bag Ambassadors that can interface with parents. Sue Densmore-offered the services of her Human Services Students to help stuff the bags when needed.

Next Steps: Peg, in her new role as Rutland BBF Coordinator will meet with Jona Farwell (CIS), Amy Pfenning

and Sara Batch (Nurse Managers RRMC-Women and Children) and Laura Edwards-Pediatric Social Worker

Community Health Team- to discuss a way for BBF to be on their radar for Welcome Baby Bags. We have to mindful of our budget and make certain we can keep up with the potential demand.

We also need to form a “Welcome Baby Bag” Sub-Committee to flesh out the idea of a postcard plus

other ways for us to expand our outreach. Peg will put out an email trying to solicit some volunteers.

The next item on the agenda was our Rutland BBF Action Plan-which had been updated in May, 2014 thanks

to efforts of Jan Krantz and Rutland BBF Regional Council. Peg wanted to begin the preliminary conversations

about revising the current plan moving forward. Since our regional plan needs to align with the six goals of

the state Early Childhood Action Plan, we as a council need to identify 1-2 of the initiatives we need to pursue

in our plan.

Hear some items that evolved out of our discussion...

1. Identify places where are other people are working on similar issues
2. How do we share the work better?
3. How do we make things better for families?
4. Try to tie in with larger organizations (Project Vision) that bring together a

much wider and diverse groups-see how they are connected to early childhood

1. Target groups-asking what they need from BBF?

Also, Peg asked the question about how much does the local community know about

Building Bright Futures? Perhaps we need to put together a presentation (BBF 101)

that focuses on our mission and work. We can then reach out to various groups

like Rutland Young Professionals, local civic clubs for speaking opportunities.

We also talked about potential speakers at our BBF Monthly Regional Council Meetings.

Some ideas that were floated were Prevent Substance Abuse, RAFFL (Rutland Area Food

and Farm Link) Project Vision. These speakers can be followed by Q&A so folks can

be more involved in the discussion.

It was also mentioned for Peg to produce a show on PEG TV about Rutland Building

Bright Futures. Great opportunity to expand our name recognition and connect with

Local partners. Peg did agree but needs to vet the idea with the state BBF group.

Stay Tuned!

Again, good starting points for continuing dialogue.

Other business: Next Meeting is December 16th in the Leahy Conference Room at Rutland

Regional Medical Center.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Bolgioni, Regional Coordinator

Rutland Building Bright Futures