

**VERMONT'S  
SUCCESS BY SIX INITIATIVE  
ANNUAL REPORT**



**A report to the Vermont General Assembly  
By the Agency of Human Services and  
The Department of Education**

**January 2004**

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# **VERMONT'S SUCCESS BY SIX INITIATIVE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Agency of Human Services and the Department of Education**

Helping Vermont's communities to foster the well being of young children and their families is the principal goal of Vermont's comprehensive early childhood initiative, Success By Six. In its broad vision Success By Six is a systemic view of services and supports that cuts across traditional organizational boundaries. Neither a single program nor a collection of programs, it is a unified strategy to promote better outcomes for all Vermont children and their families.

Success By Six activities are designed to contribute to the achievement of the following outcomes from the list of desired outcomes adopted by the Vermont State Team for Children, Families and Individuals.

**OUTCOME: FAMILIES, YOUTH AND INDIVIDUALS ARE ENGAGED IN THEIR COMMUNITY'S DECISIONS AND ACTIVITIES, AND FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS LIVE IN SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES**

**OUTCOME: PREGNANT WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN THRIVE**

**OUTCOME: CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL**

The Agency of Human Services and Department of Education help families and communities to support young children in many important ways.

The following describes the system of services for children in the early years.

## **THE FIRST YEARS LAST FOREVER: FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE-LONG LEARNING**

*Research and experience show that children thrive when:*

- ✓ *They live in stable, supportive families.*
- ✓ *They have access to good health care.*
- ✓ *They are protected from environmental, physical, and emotional harm.*
- ✓ *They have access to high-quality child developmental programs.*
- ✓ *Their special needs are identified early and taken care of.*
- ✓ *They have unhurried time with responsive caregivers.*

### ***The Outcome: Pregnant Women and Young Children Thrive***

***What's Needed:*** 100 percent of pregnant women receive early, comprehensive prenatal care

### ***The Outcome: Children are Ready for School***

***What's Needed:*** Public Education on brain development

### ***The Outcome: Children Succeed in School***

***What's Needed:*** New investments to assure all children read at grade level by Grade 3

### ***The Outcome: Children Live in Stable, Supported Families***

***What's Needed:*** Success By Six in all communities

Success By Six includes programs and initiatives of state and federal agencies, community-based organizations, networks of providers and consumers, and many volunteers. The schema on these pages was developed to depict the vision of the unified system and the desired outcomes for children and families

#### ***Healthy Babies***

*Obstetricians*

*Pediatricians*

*Family practice providers*

*Maternal child health nurses*

*Family support workers:*

*....provide critical early support and health promotion for pregnant women and infants*

#### ***Early Education Initiative***

*Children with identifiable disadvantages receive preschool services from programs in a variety of settings: Head Start, child care, school, parent child centers, etc.*

#### ***Family Infant and Toddler Program***

*Children and their families receive early intervention services that include:*

- *Evaluations and assessment*
- *Development of individual and family services plan*
- *Care coordination*

#### ***Essential Early Education Programs***

*Specialized services continue to be provided for children between the ages of three and six. Often including a group setting as part of the intervention.*

#### ***Parent Child Center***

*Sixteen parent child centers provide comprehensive support for families and their young children without regard to income. Services include parent education and support, playgroups, information and referral, home visiting, on-site services, community development, early childhood services.*

**Head Start**

*Low income children and their families receive comprehensive services from seven Head Start programs around the state.*

*Services include health, mental health, nutrition, early education and parent education*

**Dr. Dynasaur**

*Provides access to health care for Vermont low income children.*

**Reach Up**

*Provides case management, education, and specialized support for families receiving ANFC.*

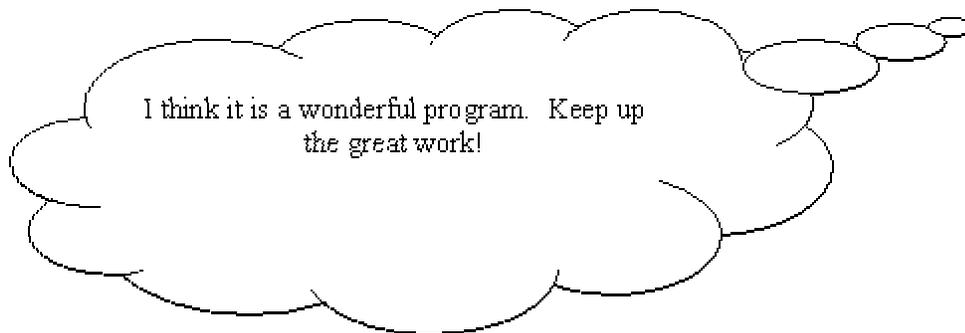
**Success By Six**

*Each county provides Welcome Baby visits for Vermont's newborns and for newly adopted children. Local projects provide for playgroups, library hours, parent support groups, screening, transition to school, early literacy, and nutrition education.*

## THIS YEAR'S MILESTONES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE UNIFIED SYSTEM

The development of the infrastructure to make the vision real at all levels of the system has been, and will be, a process that is emergent and responsive. This year has marked some important milestones.

- ✓ A logic model and strategic plan has been drafted to guide the work towards realization of early childhood desired outcomes.
- ✓ Early Childhood Councils are established in each region of the state. The councils are structurally associated with both the Regional Teams and with the Success By Six Community Projects in each area. They draw together parents and providers of services and supports to young children to engage in resource mapping, planning, and evaluation of all early childhood resources in the community.
- ✓ The Success By Six Community Projects have implemented a comprehensive planning and evaluation cycle. Service and financial data for the current year is impressively detailed and complete. All Projects now operate within the same fiscal year structure and have a uniform cycle that includes a comprehensive review of community conditions, project accomplishments, planning, reporting and evaluation.
- ✓ The Success By Six Community Projects have also reported expenditures for the past year using an outcome-based program budget. This accounting structure enables projects and planners to track the amount of resources expended to promote each outcome.



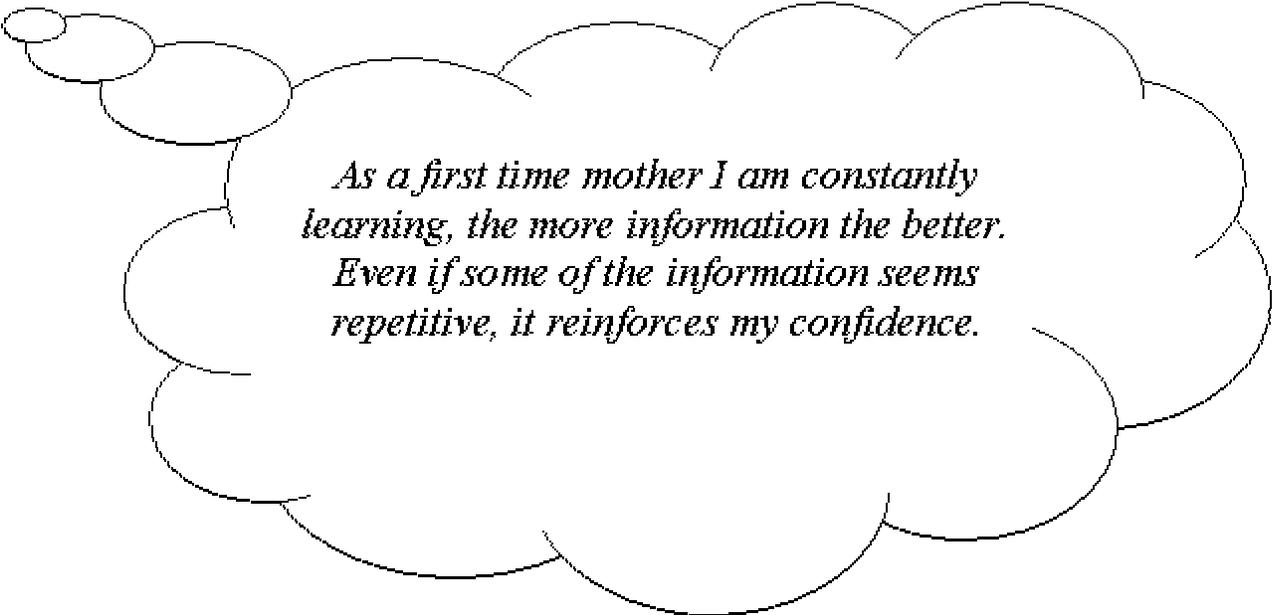
- ✓ The Success By Six Community Projects collects data about program effectiveness. There is a common survey instrument that is included with all Welcome Baby Bags and a common protocol for focus groups to explore the effectiveness of playgroups. Some preliminary feedback from these efforts is included in this report in the form of quotations.
- ✓ A town by town comprehensive inventory of early childhood services and supports has is conducted annually by the Early Childhood Councils and Success By Six Community Projects in each region of the State. This resource mapping guides planning and development of services to ensure that each child has equitable access.
- ✓ AHS Child Care Services Division and the Carnegie Foundation through the Starting Points Initiative has developed a community “presence” of Starting Points networks to act as a catalyst for involvement and connection between the providers and the rest of the early childhood community.
- ✓ Vermont has expanded public funding of health care for children to 300% of poverty and for parents and caregivers to 185% of poverty.
- ✓ For the first time, due to budget reductions in the state general fund, Success By Six Communities received a 10 percent cut, but this cut was made up in Medicaid Match expenses through health outreach activities/services throughout the state.
- ✓ A new reporting structure was implemented this year to incorporate the new Medicaid expenditure match. This report will reflect these changes.

# Success By Six Community Projects

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

A unique component of the Success By Six system is a group of Success By Six Community Projects. There are fourteen (14) community and regionally based projects funded through grants to local organizations and groups. A community based planning process designs collaborative service and support strategies that fit with the character and meet the specific needs of the community. Projects typically have local and/or regional boards including parents, community members, educators and service providers. The amount of resources and funding available varies greatly among projects. Direct Success By Six resources are “leveraged” with those already existing in communities. Often Success By Six pulls together resources across programs and agencies to fill identified needs.

A total of 36,024 children and 46,181 parents were served through the Success By Six Community Projects this year. The total Success By Six cost for those services was \$1,399,643 for an average cost per child of \$38.85. *(Please note that the cost per child is derived solely from Success By Six dollars and activities funded by these dollars.)*



*As a first time mother I am constantly learning, the more information the better. Even if some of the information seems repetitive, it reinforces my confidence.*

The numbers of children served has continued to increase and corresponding cost per child has continued to decline annually from a cost per child of \$326 in FY'93 and \$38.85 last year. The establishment of infrastructure and systemic community connections is likely to account for the increased efficiency of the initiative.

The following chart summarizes services and costs by outcome. Activities and costs for each outcome are detailed on the following pages.

The three outcomes targeted during State Fiscal Year 2003 were:

Outcome #1: Families and Individuals are Engaged in Their Communities and Families and Individuals Live in Safe, Supportive Communities

Outcome #2: Pregnant Women and Young Children Thrive

Outcome #3: Children Are Ready For School

	Children 0 to 3 Served	Children 3 to 5 Served	All Children Served	Parents Served	Early Childhood Providers	Others Served	Total Cost	% of Budget
Outcome #1: Individuals Participating	45	155	200	11,665	4,083	6,978	\$308,165	22%
Outcome #2: Welcome Baby	4,425		4,425	4,052			\$219,767	16%
Other visits	349	122	471	653			\$27,831	2%
Other services	9,220	10,800	20,020	22,428	6,435	1,473	\$473,806	34%
Outcome #3: Children Ready for School	6,562	6,804	13,366	9,365	958	573	\$370,074	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,602</b>	<b>17,881</b>	<b>38,482</b>	<b>48,163</b>	<b>11,476</b>	<b>9,024</b>	<b>\$1,399,643</b>	<b>100%</b>

**SUCCESS BY SIX COMMUNITY PROJECTS' ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTING TO FAMILY, YOUTH AND CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT**

**OUTCOME 1 : FAMILIES, YOUTH AND INDIVIDUALS ARE ENGAGED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES**

All Projects but one reported parent involvement in planning and evaluation. Participation is most sustained at the local team or board level. Many Projects have also supported Parent Leadership Training efforts. These efforts seem to be very important in encouraging and enabling significant parent involvement.

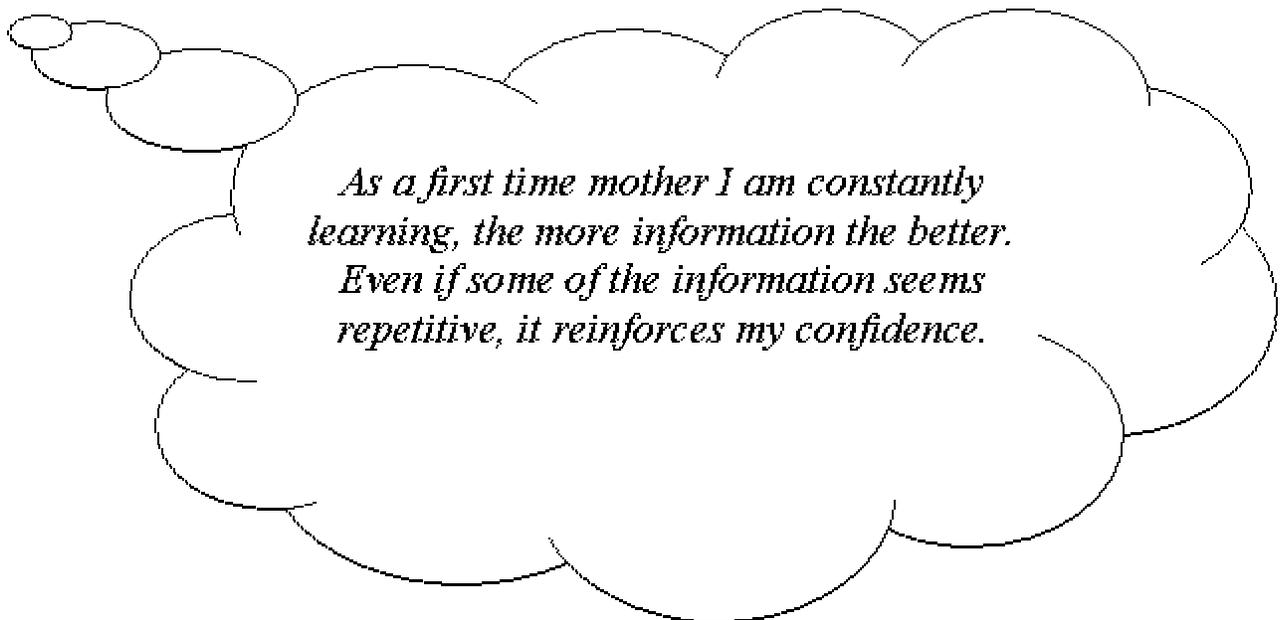
Regional Success By Six Boards	Local Success By Six Teams	Surveys	Community Events/Forums	Legislative Forums	Community Leadership Training	Total Parent Involvement
84	930	1,707	8,047	65	26	<b>10,859</b>

In addition to parents, Success By Six Projects have been successful in recruiting involvement of other community members, such as early childhood care and education providers and professionals.

Regional Success By Six Boards	Local Success By Six Teams	Surveys	Community Events/Forums	Legislative Forums	Community Leadership Training	Total Community Member Involvement
786	1,794	178	7,566	298	4	<b>10,626</b>

Costs from the Success By Six budget attributed to parent and community involvement totaled \$308,165 this year. That is 22% of the overall budget.

Other funds and in-kind services from collaborating agencies, other funders and the community also contribute to the services described above.



## **SUCCESS BY SIX COMMUNITY PROJECTS' WELCOME BABY ACTIVITIES**

### **OUTCOME : PREGNANT WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN THRIVE**

Each region has developed a local plan for reaching out to all families with newborns in the community. Success By Six staff and volunteers collaborate with hospitals, scan newspaper birth announcements and research registrations of births at Town Clerk's offices to find all families with a new baby. They are also working very closely with the State and district office of the Vermont Department of Health to get the names and addresses of all babies born to Vermont families, along with adopted babies so they can offer a newborn visit to them. Out of the 6385 births identified by the Vermont Department of Health during State Fiscal Year 2002, 89% (5654) were welcomed with a letter and/or a telephone call during State Fiscal Year 2003. All those contacted were offered a home visit, information and gifts. The home visits were accepted by 4425 families or 78%.

In some regions home visits are conducted by trained community volunteers. In other areas the visitor is a nurse or a staff member of Success By Six or another local agency. In some areas the local hospitals are involved in giving and explaining the Welcome Baby Bag to new parents and urges them to use the contact information enclosed in the bag to access parenting and health information in their community. In some cases, where the hospitals are not involved, parents choose to pick up welcome baby bags through collaborative arrangements with libraries, hospitals or Parent Child Centers. In Lamoille County, the Success By Six Coordinator works with area physician offices to enlist their help in getting the word out about these very important visits and contacts for new parents at the child's well-child clinics/visits.

Costs from the Success By Six budget attributed to Welcome Baby Activities totaled \$219,767 this year. That is 16% of the overall budget. Other funds and in-kind services from collaborating agencies, other funders and the community also contribute to the services described above.

**SUCCESS BY SIX COMMUNITY PROJECTS' FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN  
BIRTH TO AGE 3.**

**OUTCOME : PREGNANT WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN THRIVE**

In order to maintain contact with families and offer continuing connections with community supports and services, many projects reach out again to the families they've contacted. Follow-up services include home visits, extra support for families at risk, help and coaching around lactation, birthday greetings, birthday bags, birthday parties and telephone calls, developmental screenings, well-child information, early childhood mental health services, parent support groups, newsletters, etc. All information distributed under this outcome contain health information for families to ensure their child is healthy.

<b>Activity</b>	<b># Sessions or Articles</b>	<b>Children Under 3 years</b>	<b>Children 3-6 years</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>EC &amp; Ed Providers</b>	<b>Other Professionals</b>
Newsletters	12,890	198	66	3,441	4,158	853
Health Outreach with Parents & Children	2,047	3,390	3,132	3,873	115	12
Community Events with Health Outreach Info	54	775	879	1,496	116	215
School Screening & registration programs	158	209	1,414	1,439	109	5
Parent Education Workshops	215	375	414	788	27	25
Early Childhood Mental Health Services	119	69	72	170	8	31
Early Childhood Training Activities	52	43	15	60	665	10
Collaborative child development activities	884	952	537	615	99	2
Parent Support Groups	193	152	67	201	1	3

A total of 16,612 services were delivered under this outcome during the past fiscal year. A total of 12,759 children were served, along with 12,083 parents.

Costs from the Success By Six budget attributed to follow up activities totaled \$501,637 this year. That is 36% of the overall budget. Other funds and in-kind services from collaborating agencies, other funders and the community also contribute to the services described above.

## SUCCESS BY SIX COMMUNITY PROJECTS PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL

### OUTCOME: CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL

Many of the programs undertaken by the regional projects are targeted toward supporting the kinds of experiences that are known to promote success in school. Ready for school activities may be grouped into six areas: early care and education, kindergarten transition, family literacy, playgroups, and community events. Each is detailed below.

#### Early Care and Education

Number of groups or activities	Number of Children aged 0 to 3 served	Number of Children aged 3 to 5 served	Number of Parents Served
271	88	163	318

#### Transition to Kindergarten

Number of groups or activities	Number of Children aged 0 to 3 served	Number of Children aged 3 to 5 served	Number of Parents Served
1318	107	2719	2701

#### Family Literacy Activities

Number of groups or activities	Number of Children aged 0 to 3 served	Number of Children aged 3 to 5 served	Number of Parents Served
4141	2413	3332	2560

#### Playgroups

Number of Children aged 0 to 3 served	Number of Children aged 3 to 5 served	Number of Parents Served
837	780	1145

#### Community Events for Parents and Children:

Number of groups or activities	Number of Children aged 0 to 3 served	Number of Children aged 3 to 5 served	Number of Parents Served
702	3301	2941	3397

Costs from the Success By Six budget attributed to Ready for School activities totaled \$384,785. That is 27% of the overall budget. Other funds and in-kind services from collaborating agencies, other funders and the community also contribute to the services described above.

## SUCCESS BY SIX COMMUNITY PROJECTS SUPPORT FAMILY ACTIVITIES

An important part of Success By Six efforts is ensuring that parents have someone to call with their questions and requests for information. The Community Projects respond to questions and concerns expressed by families. Another information and education effort is the publication and distribution of resource materials including calendars of events, Parenting Tips Boards with tear off sheets maintained throughout the community, resource books and newsletters. This year Resource and Referral activities have been divided into the three State Team Outcomes, as listed below.

Outcome #1: Families, Youth & Individuals are Engaged in Their Community’s Decisions & Activities AND Families & Individuals Live in Safe & Supportive Communities.

Activity	# of Referrals	Children Under Age 3	Children Age 3-6 Served	Total Parents Served	Total EC & Ed Providers	Total Others Served
Information & Referral	1820	2	2	687	237	65

Outcome #2: Pregnant Women and Young Children Thrive.

Activity	# of Referrals	Children Under Age 3	Children Age 3-6 Served	Total Parents Served	Total EC & Ed Providers	Total Others Served
Information & Referral	4188	226	77	2058	163	24

Outcome #3: Children Are Ready For School.

Activity	# of Referrals	Children Under Age 3	Children Age 3-6 Served	Total Parents Served	Total EC & Ed Providers	Total Others Served
Information & Referral	5184	20	126	1964	138	71

Costs from the Success By Six budget attributed to Information and Referrals for these three outcomes totaled \$61,449 this year. That is 4% of the overall budget. Other funds and in-kind services from collaborating agencies, other funders and the community also contribute to the services described above.

## **PROGRESS TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMIC EVALUATION PROCESS**

The richness and detail of the information contained in this report is the result of an extensive effort on the part of the Agency of Human Services and the Success By Six Community Partnerships. Through the development of the capacity to produce the data, everyone involved has gained important insight into the workings of the system as a whole and of each person's, organization's and team's place in it.

It is hoped that this work will serve as a foundation and prototype for the development of the capacity to include systematic collection and evaluation of information across the "boundaries" of programs, disciplines and initiatives.

As the Success By Six evaluation expands its scope it will require common architecture and infrastructure. The focus of the coming year will be to continue developing capacity through the Early Childhood Councils and the Early Childhood Steering Committee. The work will also be coordinated with the ongoing work by the AHS Planning Division on the Community Profiles.

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF EACH SUCCESS BY SIX REGION'S  
ACTIVITIES**

**NOTE: All regions offer Welcome Baby visits/bags to all families with a newborn or newly adopted baby.**

***ADDISON COUNTY:*** The Addison County Success By Six grant funds programs and activities for children and families throughout the county. Playgroups, story times, literacy events, outreach to parents with new babies, parent education series, family focused community events, scholarships for low income children to participate in enrichment activities, and direct support for children with mental health challenges are all a part of the myriad of services funded by the county's Success By Six grant. The community stretches its funds through creative programming and through collaboration with existing service providers. The county takes full advantage of its small Success By Six grant.

***BENNINGTON COUNTY:*** Bennington's Success By Six collaborates with over eighteen (18) agencies to sponsor a wide variety of activities for young children and their families across three supervisory unions. In addition to these activities, Bennington's Success By Six is also responsible for coordinating postpartum/newborn home visits, distributing educational resource bags to all children turning one year of age, promoting early literacy through local libraries, maintaining a network of nine community playgroups and initiating and supporting transition services for all children entering kindergarten.

***BRATTLEBORO REGION:*** The Early Childhood Council was formed in 1998 to advocate for the full development of Windham County children, birth to age eight. Through cross-community collaborations, fundraising, public education and engagement, members are actively working to ensure the well-being of our youngest children. Activities include:

- Advocating for affordable, accessible, high-quality early childhood services and programs;
- Mapping out unmet needs;
- Providing health outreach, literacy and school readiness activities to children and families;
- Organizing local education and professional development activities; and
- Participating in statewide efforts to improve services and the quality of life for children and families.

***CHITTENDEN COUNTY:*** The Early Childhood CONNECTION of Chittenden County/Success By Six Initiative is the region's Early Childhood Council of the local Community Partnership – The Champlain Initiative. This region encompasses a quarter of the state's population and the largest city, does its work both county-wide and in their 18 towns and cities. Much of their work is accomplished through the 12 local Success By Six Teams which include three parent child centers and two family centers. Together parents, community members, educators, and providers of service coordinate, plan

and implement services with families who have young children ages birth to six in the county. The CONNECION supports activities such as family literacy programs, transition to kindergarten programs, free family-child play groups, parent education, advocacy education, resource, referral and information distribution. In addition, they act as an advisory group and focus forum for organizations and for community discussions of issues related to early childhood. Their mission is to enhance the ability of families and community to protect, nurture, educate and support the development of their children and to recognize and support parents as their child's first and most important teacher. Their goals are twofold: 1) ALL children and healthy and ready to be active learners and ALL schools are ready for children; and 2) ALL families have access to information and community services to support them in their role as their child's first and most important teacher.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY:** At the heart of the Franklin County Success By Six project are 15 local community teams comprised of parents, educators, health care providers, legislators, child care providers, librarians, business people, and others interested in the well being of young children and families. These 15 local committees assess community needs and plan activities to enhance outcomes for young children. All communities provide a "Welcome Infant" program and kindergarten transition activities. Other community projects respond to the unique character of each town and include story times, playgroups, large motor "tumble times", family aerobics, and community birthday parties. Support for these local teams is provided through regular meetings of the local team leaders, known as "community liaisons". Franklin County SX6 also provides a wide range of services and supports including: county wide training opportunities for parents and providers; ongoing support for community-based play groups; support for high quality, developmentally appropriate early care and education experiences; information dissemination through weekly newsletters, newspaper columns, an email listserve, and a website; support for child protection and child find efforts; advocacy for the needs of young children and their families; and county wide efforts to improve early literacy.

**GRAND ISLE:** Success By Six efforts in Grand Isle County focus on ensuring all families with young children are knowledgeable about and have opportunities to participate in early childhood services and programs that promote nurturance, education, health and well-being. Early childhood services currently funded by Success By Six monies include: Welcoming Island Newborns, a program offering gifts, books, resources, information and support to parents of newborns, pre-school scholarships and family literacy programs.

**HARTFORD AREA:** The Hartford Area Success By Six initiative is closely aligned with the regional Early Childhood Council and the efforts to integrate early childhood services under the council. Comprehensive planning and evaluation of early childhood services is done on a regional level, helping to build a unified system of services to families. Hartford Area Success By Six offers early outreach to families including Welcome Baby visits, early literacy education, playgroups, and parent education. They are collaborating for the fifth year with Orange County Parent Child Center on a regional parent education program. They publicize workshops, classes, community playgroups, support groups, Welcome Baby visits, and family events through their joint calendar, “Growing a Happy Child”. The calendar is disseminated twice a year to over 4000 individuals and families.

**LAMOILLE VALLEY:** The Lamoille Valley Success By Six Project is building a community that supports, celebrates and values families with young children. Parents, early care & education providers, social service agency personnel and interested community members collaborate, coordinate and cooperate to identify and address needs of families and young children; avoid duplication of services; and promote resource sharing. Together, they support activities, efforts, and innovations that result in opportunities for children to thrive and to develop skills that enable them to be ready to succeed in school and in community life beyond school. Lamoille Valley SX6 is committed to empowering families and providers who work and/or live with young children, so that they are involved in informed decision making related to meeting the needs of their children and communities.

**NEWPORT:** The Newport District Success By Six initiative serves three Supervisory Unions in Orleans and Northern Essex Counties. Through collaborations with schools, state and local agencies, childcare providers, municipalities, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Vermont Council on the Humanities and Vermont Center for the Book, they are able to offer a comprehensive array of programs and services to families with young children. Local initiatives include Welcome Baby home-visits and parent/child playgroups that provide information on immunization, health, nutrition and child development. Success by Six also organizes and supports family literacy, story hours, summer preschools, summer reading and lunch programs, parenting education, professional development, mental health services for children and families, pediatric social work, smoking cessation, parent support groups, preschool natural science programs, Kindergarten transition activities, family events and celebrations. Through private donations, volunteers and collaboration with Lake Region High School, “food drops” are provided to help prevent childhood hunger and malnutrition in the Northeast Kingdom. Parent participation and leadership, as well as strong working relationships with the Vermont State Departments of Health, Education and Human Services, are the underpinning of their success.

**ORANGE COUNTY:** It is the shared vision of the parents, providers, and community members involved in the Orange County Success By Six Initiative that ALL families with young children will thrive. They believe that they can best accomplish this by working together to create systems and supports that recognize and build upon individual strengths and community resources that are available to ALL families to utilize as they see fit. To achieve their goals they work both locally and regionally, and therefore, have committed their resources to enhancing local supports for families while simultaneously building a strong regional collaborative effort. The cornerstones of this project are four local SX6 teams, one in each of the supervisory unions they serve. They have placed community resource coordinators with each team to help coordinate and promote playgroups, literacy projects, transition activities, developmental screenings, parenting workshops and events for families and providers in each area. A major focus of their initiative is to bring families, providers, and community members together to determine the best way for services to be delivered. They have expanded their home visiting capacity and have added new support groups. They are providing nursing and therapy consultation for families and for child care and preschool providers. They are offering the Parent Community Leadership Training. They have established a Regional Early Childhood Action Team that has strong ties to the local teams and to their Community Partnership.

**RUTLAND COUNTY:** Neshobe Family Network (NFN), Rutland County's first Success By Six initiative provides high quality playgroup/drop in opportunities for families with young children living in the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (primarily Brandon, Leichester, Sudbury and Whiting). NFN connects families with their schools, communities and service providers and offers resources, socialization and support from the beginning of parenthood. With support from other funding, Neshobe Family Network provides outreach services to all communities in the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union via family celebration events, playgroups, story hours, "dads" groups, home visits and information & referral/Child Care Resource & Referral. Welcome Baby new baby and new adoption visits are offered county wide to all families as another Rutland County SX6 initiative. This project provides early and meaningful resource connections for families. A fun, information packed gift bag celebrating each new baby is available to all families at a home visit, at local playgroups, Rutland County PCC or through Neshobe Family Network. SX6 funds also support other community identified early parenting resource projects and include child birth education, car seat safety, breast feeding supports, and the Early Childhood Council. Family, community and provider partnerships are key in all of Rutland County's SX6 work.

***ST. JOHNSBURY AREA:*** The Success By Six and the Early Childhood Council grant project in Southern Essex and Caledonia Counties supports a variety of early childhood initiatives through local teams in each of the five supervisory unions serving children and families in twenty two towns. Community needs are identified and plans developed to maximize resources available to meet these needs. A wide variety of community partners including parents are involved in this process. Each local team welcomes new babies into the community, as well as supporting specific early childhood projects such as developmental preschool screenings, early literacy activities, transition into preschool or kindergarten information and activities, playgroups, professional development opportunities and program support for early childhood settings. The Early Childhood Council is coordinated through the Success by Six Project. Each of the local teams has a representative and alternate that together with three at large elected ECC members form the board that oversees the grant as well as the operation of the ECC. The SECal EC has a broad representation of members who participate fully in the organization that include parents, Head Start and Early Head Start, Department of PATH, the Health Department, local schools, regulated childcare providers and staff, the faith based community, Lyndon State College, Vermont Federation for Families, University of Vermont Extension Services, technical secondary education, Child Care Support Services, NEKCA PCC, Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, local libraries, FITP, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, CUPS and others. This broad coalition has produced a number of noteworthy projects including an Autism Spectrum Disorder Collaborative, and increased number of centers seeking accreditation, enhanced and coordinated professional development opportunities, and the creation of a task force to explore and initiate the establishment of a Model Early Childhood and Professional Development Center in the region.

***SPRINGFIELD AREA:*** Springfield's "Kids Ready for School and Schools Ready for Kids" project focuses on providing a unified system of services to families and increasing the level of family-centered services. The goal of the Springfield AHS District Success By Six Initiative is a continuum of services for families at all stages of life which allow families to feel supported, children to thrive and become active, participating members of their community. Early outreach to families includes home visits, parenting education classes, family literacy activities and playgroups. These are now available to every family in the Springfield AHS District on a somewhat limited, but increasing basis. The Springfield Area SX6 Initiative also serves as the Early Childhood Council for the Springfield AHS District.

**WASHINGTON:** The Central Vermont Early Childhood Council (CVECC) utilizes the Success By Six grant to support children and families in twenty-two towns in Central Vermont. The activities of the Success By Six grant are overseen by the CVECC which is a collaboration of parents, community members, service providers, and local team representatives. The specific prevention and early intervention programs funded by Success By Six include:

- The Teen Parent Program, implemented by the Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boy's and Girl's Club, provides home visits, support groups, field trips, and other services for pregnant and parenting teens.
- The Welcome Baby Program, collaborative provided by Barre Town Elementary School, Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice, and The Family Center of Washington County, offers home visits, gifts and informational resources to families with newborn children.
- Therapeutic Outreach/CUPS Program, offered by Washington County Mental Health, provides in-home therapy, consultation services, and parenting workshops for families dealing with mental health issues.
- Success By Six Family Support Home Visits are conducted by the Family Center of Washington County and Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice and are targeted at families that might not otherwise receive necessary support.
- Success By Six Local Teams, located in each supervisory union, offer family literacy opportunities, parent education workshops, family fun events, and weekly playgroups.

## SUCCESSION BY SIX STATE-WIDE COORDINATORS

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### Bennington County:

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### Lamoille Valley:

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# APPENDIX

