

V E R M O N T

EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

Alliance background

The Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance is a statewide, independent advocacy coalition of parents, community members, organizations, and early childhood providers who are committed to improving public policies that impact young children between the ages of birth and eight in the areas of health, safety, food and economic security, and early care and education.

To achieve this goal, the Alliance creates an annual Legislative Agenda for the Vermont legislative session. The Agenda includes priority issues for the coalition's diverse voices from around the state.

By bringing advocates together and providing professional support, we strengthen advocacy efforts by making them more coordinated, more efficient, and more effective.

The Alliance (formerly known as the Kids Are Priority One Coalition or KAP1) has been recognized by policy-makers and legislators as a key statewide advocacy leader on early childhood issues in Vermont. The Alliance's ability to mobilize diverse constituencies around legislative initiatives has led to a track record of success and system-wide change.

The Alliance was formed in 2013 through a re-organization of KAP1, and is governed by a Steering Committee structured to represent the various interests within the early childhood community identified in our Mission Statement. It also includes representatives of parents, businesses, and the broader community.

Alliance Steering Committee description, role, logistics

The Alliance Steering Committee guides and oversees the work of the coalition. Supported by staff, it determines the advocacy goals and priorities of the Alliance primarily through the development of the annual Legislative Agenda. The Steering Committee ensures that advocacy priorities established by the Alliance membership are implemented. In addition, through engagement and discussion, the Steering Committee ensures good communication with Alliance supporters and members from outside Committee membership.

The Steering Committee meets several times a year, twice in-person and the rest virtually. The meetings typically range from 90 minutes to about three hours. Stipends are available. Meetings are held during regular business hours.

Steering Committee terms are for two years, and elections take place at the Annual Membership Meeting. When vacancies occur, they are filled by appointments made by the Committee Chair. Steering Committee members can be either individual or organizational members of the Alliance. If an organization holds a seat on the Steering Committee, they are responsible for selecting an individual to represent them. Steering Committee members are required to be Alliance members.

For more information about the Alliance and the Steering Committee, contact Matt Levin, Alliance Executive Director, at 802-229-4281 or matt@vecaa.org.