



VCFC Family Newsletter

Spring 2019
Volume 1 Issue 3

Kathleen Seabolt, Ed.D. | Executive Director
200 Appleton Place, Nashville, TN 37202
Kathleen.c.seabolt@vanderbilt.edu | 615.322.8074

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A Note from the Executive Director

Spring reflections include feeling overwhelmed with appreciation for the accomplishments of our VCFC team members in moving forward the goals for our programs. Establishing partnerships with Campus Dining, Next Steps, Peabody, SEMO, and the Women's Center have supported VCFC's strategic planning, identifying opportunities and pathways. The updated VCFC website has created easier access to resources and services. In our early childhood programs our teachers excel in modeling creativity and innovation to our youngest learners. VCFC programs impact Vanderbilt families across the spectrum of life, and support the university community in multiple ways. I am incredibly proud of our team's achievement, and honored to be in this work with them.

VCFC recognizes the tremendous support we receive from our colleagues. Thank you to all our advocates for their partnership.

In gratitude,
Kathleen Seabolt

VCFC is on board with FutureVU's vision to significantly reduce Vanderbilt's environmental footprint. One of the ways our students have learned about sustainability has been through upcycled art creations!



Chancellor Zeppos Visits VCFC

Chancellor Zeppos continues to be a staunch VCFC advocate, referencing in his blog What's On My Mind “the Vanderbilt Child and Family Center—a campus resource close to my heart that we continue to enhance and expand”. Highlighting the essential work of ECE, he states, “In 2018. . . the center reassessed its commitments to the accessibility and affordability of childcare, education research and lifelong learning. Our ultimate goal is to make VCFC an even more obtainable and robust resource in supporting the professional progression of many faculty and staff.” Chancellor Zeppos honored VCFC with a site visit in March, engaging with the children through storytime and a playground activity.



Child Care Parent Packets- Due June 7th

Families will receive their updated parent packets electronically before Memorial Day (forms due back to Angela, Elaine or Sophia by **June 7, 2019.**) This will include the Parent Handbook and information on tuition. Parents/guardians must return completed forms (updating personal contact information) **with all required immunization documentation** for children to engage in the July 2019-June 2020 school year. This paperwork is necessary to child care center licensing compliance, providing for children’s safety and health.

Nutrition Vendor Changes

Effective June 2019, VCFC is excited to partner with Vanderbilt Dining Services as our nutrition vendor. This is a positive step forward in our early childhood education program’s alignment with the VU Guiding principles for sustainability. The June menu will be published by May 20th!

Remember!



Teacher Appreciation

A HUGE shout out and much gratitude to the Parent Connect Group for organizing celebrations at all three of the child care centers to show appreciation to our wonderful VCFC teachers for this year's Teacher Appreciation Week. The teachers were immensely grateful and touched to be showered by all the desserts, meals, small gifts, and "wall of love" throughout the week.



A Note from the Family Services Coordinator

By: Alice Shi

It's been a busy and exciting semester of organizing events and working on programs. In February, VCFC hosted over 20 Vanderbilt-sponsored and Nashville-area camps at the annual Summer Camp Fair held in Light Hall. Vanderbilt faculty, staff, and students had the opportunity to learn about summer programs and activities through face to face interactions with camp representatives.

For the adult care and caregiving community, VCFC consistently hosted two events each month covering a blend of topics ranging from Medicare to Advance Care Planning. These monthly events included the Caregiver Support Group and the Boomers, Elders, & More Speaker Series. To receive a copy of the monthly e-newsletter or receive resources and information on past or future programming, please feel free to e-mail me at alice.shi@vanderbilt.edu.

Our last event of the academic year will be on Wednesday, May 15th in the Godchaux Nursing Annex 166 from 12PM – 1PM. We will be hosting Debra King, an elder care coordinator, as she speaks on the topic of "[Caregiving During Work Hours](#)".

As we head into the summer months, VCFC continually strives to learn and assess the resource needs of the Vanderbilt community. We welcome comments, questions, and ideas as we expand opportunities to promote our commitment to the education of the whole person.

CAREGIVING DURING WORK HOURS

Wednesday | May 15th
12 PM - 1 PM
Godchaux Nursing Annex 166

How do you manage the difficult tasks of making sure your loved ones get the care they need and continuing to function on your job?

This presentation will give you tips to help with caregiving roles, how to manage caregiver burnout, and discuss resources available in the community and online.

Guest Speaker
Debra King, LMSW
Elder Care Coordinator
Takacs McGinnis Elder Care Law

Please contact Alice Shi at alice.shi@vanderbilt.edu if you plan to attend or have any questions.



Summer Camp Fair 2019



VCFC Launches New Website and Social Media

VCFC launched a new look for our website on April 8th! The website highlights VCFC’s mission of supporting individuals across the spectrum of life by providing resources and information related to new parent support, early childhood care and education, family life, and adult/elder care topics. Navigate through the pages to find information such as lactation room locations on campus, a directory of summer camps, archived e-newsletters, and more!

FOLLOW US!

@VANDERBILTCFC



VCFC Welcomes New Education Director

Cierra Price (MS, Child and Adolescent Psychology) has been selected for the Education Director position. She will onboard with VCFC in June 2019, but visited May 4th to teach a workshop on the topic of photo-documentation as an effective Windows into Learning strategy of communication with parents. She has devoted almost 20 years to the field of Early Childhood Education, serving children and families through classroom teaching and licensed program administration, including site design and development for new facilities. Cierra is passionate about respecting the dignity, worth, and uniqueness of each individual and seeks to foster the beauty of lifelong learning through her work.

Gratitude to the Education Director Hiring Committee comprised of VCFC parents and staff for their partnership and dedicated support of this rigorous process: Evelyn Galletti, Angela Jones, Katie Pettit, and Shantera Rice.



Cierra Price VCFC’s Education Director

Advisory Task Force Publishes Final Report

The VCFC Advisory Task Force (ATF) was formed to assess the current programs, resources, and services provided by the department, to research the changing and complex needs of working families at Vanderbilt and to make recommendations that align with FutureVU Guiding Principles. A white paper was composed to document the VCFCATF activities in response to the precise charge ‘to build on strengths of the current program’. Specifically, the VCFCATF addressed four domains of study: the scope of services provided to the Vanderbilt Community, the accessibility to the early childhood care and education programs (tuition and wait list), the creation of a professional development and compensation philosophy for ECE staff, and the physical manifestation of the program’s vision in a new facility or facilities. Full outcomes and recommendations are detailed in the published report. A summary of action items identified by the VCFC ATF is as follows:

1. Scope of Services: Update and improve VCFC website, consider adjustments to hours of operation, expand lactation room listing.
2. Accessibility: Address the need for additional capacity via the June 30, 2020 recapture of the 132 child care slots currently occupied by VUMC and construction of a new facility.
3. Professional Development & Compensation: Partner with Peabody researchers, resulting in reciprocity for their leading VCFC professional development workshops, effective May 2019; implement of weekday in-service dates, beginning August 2020; ongoing VCFC market-wage adjustments provide a competitive compensation structure to recruit and retain highly-qualified early childhood educators (two cycles of these adjustments have taken place between 2018 and 2019).
4. Facility: Purchase furniture and equipment – with potential to be transferred to a new facility – made with Forest Stewardship Council certified wood from responsibly managed forests, and that is BPA- and PVC-free, to invest in current classrooms and playgrounds; partner with steering committee to select architecture firm Lord Aeck Sargent to conduct feasibility study for new facility.

In sum, VCFCATF contributed meaningfully to the assessment of the current programs, resources and services provided by the department. Many recommendations made over the winter 2018-19 had immediate positive impact for all people using services as well as for improving workplace conditions for the VCFC workforce. The activities scheduled under the ATF strengthened relationships among members across disciplines and departments through the common purpose of identifying effective solutions and giving recommendations for VCFC to appropriately respond to the changing and complex needs of working families at Vanderbilt. The value for relationship cannot be overstated nor its efficacy as a foundation for effective problem-solving.

Visit VCFC’s website to view the full report:

<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/child-family-center/advisory-task-force.php>

VCFCATF Members

VCFC staff: Samantha Barclay (19th Ave. Preschool Teacher and USAC Representative); Shenika Cawthon (18th Ave. 0-2s Teacher); Christina Weathers (18th Ave. Preschool Teacher); Amber Williams (19th Ave. Site Director).

Faculty appointees: Vivian Gama (Assistant Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology); Amanda Rose (Professor of Law); Jason Valentine (Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering).

Administration: Camilla Benbow (Dean of Peabody College of Education and Human Development); Tassany Henderson (Program Coordinator Transitions Programs); Eric Kopstain (Vice Chancellor for Administration); Laura Nairon (Associate Vice Chancellor for Business Services).

Committee Chair: Kathleen Seabolt, Executive Director – VCFC
Project Manager: Brette Farrelly, Senior Business Analyst – Business Services