



for Young Children and Families

The Coös Coalition for Young Children and Families works to promote optimal cognitive, physical, social and emotional development for children birth - 8 in the Coös region.

investincooskids.org

A Note From Kelly



We're excited to introduce our full Coös Coalition Leadership Team to you--community leaders who bring deep North Country experience and heart to the work. You'll also meet four new member partners who add fresh energy and connections across schools, youth programs, and public health. We're celebrating new funding that fuels non-clinical, community-rooted support for families and so many other exciting things! Thank you for walking with us - it certainly takes a village!

With great appreciation,
Kelly Dussault
Executive Director

Meet the CCFYCF Leadership Team



David Backler
Superintendent, SAU 20



Wendy Conway, CRSW, CHW
Family Leader
Consultant, CCFYCF



Tammy Fauteux
District Educational
Services Administrator,
SAU 3



Melinda Fauteux
Executive Director,
Gorham Community
Learning Center



Lori Langlois, Ed.D.
Director of Programs &
IT, North Country
Education Services



Betty Gilcris
Health & Nutrition
Department Head, Tri-
County Community
Action Program
(TCCAP)



Bridget Laflamme
Medical Social Worker,
Coos Family Health
Services



Gabrielle Flanders
Executive Director,
Family Resource Center



Airole Warden
Consultant, Coös County
Directors Network

Kim Bennett
Family Leader
Consultant, CCFYCF

CCFYCF Non-Voting Members



Shelli Roberts
Operations Coordinator, CCFYCF



Pheobe Backler
Senior Community Partner with the
Tillotson Funds of the New
Hampshire Charitable Foundation,

□ Welcome Our New Leadership Members



Allison Noel
Ed.D., Principal, Stratford Public
School

A rural school leader grounded in



Ryan "Chuck" Patterson
Executive Director, North Country
Education Services

A former teacher, principal, and district administrator with 15+ years in northern NH/NE VT, Chuck focuses

equity and innovation, Allison's doctoral research explored gamifying PBIS to build a positive school culture. She champions approaches that strengthen outcomes for students and families on campus and at home.

on strengthening rural education and ensuring educators have what they need for students to thrive.



Melanie Smith
Area Manager, Boys & Girls Clubs
of Central & Northern NH

Melanie, a former Childcare Licensing Coordinator and longtime OST leader, brings a hands-on approach to expanding high-quality childcare. She's been an adjunct at WMCC since 2014 and is committed to providing practical support to families and staff.



Joy Noel
Senior Program Manager, North
Country Health Consortium

Joy oversees prevention initiatives and juvenile court diversion, working to remove access barriers and elevate the youth and family voice. She mobilizes strong partnerships to deliver results for communities across the North Country.

□ Funding News- Three Recent Awards

AmeriHealth Caritas Foundation – Raising Strong Families & Community-Based Supports

AmeriHealth Caritas Foundation's investment allows us to expand Raising Strong Families, ensuring that in Coös



County, every family facing complex challenges has a reliable and trusted partner standing with them. Reflecting the Foundation’s focus on equity, prevention, and community-based solutions, we will expand non-clinical behavioral health supports in the places families already turn—child care, schools, Family Resource Centers, and

neighborhoods—so connection, navigation help, and timely support are accessible well before needs escalate.

“With this increased support, our Raising Strong Families program can continue to serve the most vulnerable families by expanding our reach within the Androscoggin Valley communities, providing critical, relationship-based care that meets families where they are. This funding also allows us to expand non-clinical behavioral health solutions to other communities across Coös County, where families face similar barriers and deserve the same level of support.”

— Kelly Dussault, Executive Director

Endowment for Health – Expanding Raising Strong Families



The Endowment for Health is strengthening our capacity to serve families who face the most complex challenges in the Androscoggin Valley and beyond.

This support keeps Raising Strong Families going where it’s needed most and helps us expand relationship-based, non-clinical supports into additional high-need communities across Coös County.

Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund – Scaling Family Leaders



The Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund

The Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund is helping us scale

our Family Leaders training program, deepen our Whole Family Partner approach, and ensure families are at the table—and in leadership—across Coalition efforts. This award accelerates training, coaching, and peer support so more parents and caregivers can lead change in their own communities.

“This investment in Family Leaders underscores our shared commitment and growth to our Whole Family Partner work and working alongside families in our Coalition efforts.”

— **Kat Morris, Director of Development, Family Resource Center**
together with **Kelly Dussault, Executive Director, Coös Coalition for Young Children and Families**

Stories That Move Us

On October 14th, the Coös Coalition for Young Children and Families brought together 90 community partners and family members to review local data on the behavioral health needs of children and families in Coös County. It was a powerful and inspiring day dedicated to examining real-world and regional data, with a broader goal of identifying non-clinical, community-driven solutions that strengthen family and child well-being in Coös County. We'll share more insights and outcomes from this gathering in our November newsletter—but for now, here are a few powerful quotes that capture the spirit of the day.



Parent: *“Thank you! As a parent dealing with challenges within the school system, this was a very emotional day, which I wasn’t prepared for. I have been vulnerable in this journey, sharing my story to make change for my daughter and other children who don’t have a voice. Today was the first day I felt heard, understood, and valued. I heard my story, my words, in front of the very people I “battle with” at times. It was a powerful moment in this journey, reminding me that I’m not alone and there are powerful people making changes! Thank you so much for bringing me to the table today—together, we can make a difference!”*

Attendee: *"Thank you for the invitation to today's convening, and congratulations again on a successful event. It was one of the most intentional and thoughtful events I've been to, and I know attendees appreciated the extra care and attention. Your extra touches—candy in cute jars, yoga and massage, a warm lunch, and time for connection, made it a truly special day."*

Coming In November

Stories help our community see the human impact behind the data—what families are experiencing, where hope returns, and how small actions create significant change. When we listen with care and share responsibly, stories guide better decisions and bring more people to the table.

In our next issue, we'll invite you to share your stories—moments of challenge, hope, and what made a difference for your family or the families you serve. Your voice helps shape better solutions across Coös County.

**Ready to Share → mail to: sroberts@investincooskids.org
(Subject: Story for Next Issue)**

[LINK TO CCFYCF SYSTEMS PLAN 2.0](#)

Stay Connected

Want to learn more, get involved, or share a story from your work with children and families?

- Email us: kellydussault@investincooskids.org, sroberts@investincooskids.org
- Visit our soon-to-be-updated website: www.investincooskids.org
- Connect on Facebook: www.facebook.com/investincooskids

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