



255 South Champlain Street, Suite 10, Burlington, VT 05401
Tel: 802 651 4180 | Fax: 802 658 0983 | champlainvalleyheadstart.org

January 7, 2025

On behalf of Champlain Valley Head Start, I would like to nominate Dave Melnick, LICSW, Director of the Transforming Trauma Collaborative at the NFI Family Center for the Excellence in Leadership Award.

Dave has provided a variety of support to Champlain Valley Head Start direct service staff, management, and Head Start families over the past several years. He demonstrated specific tact and skill in his work guiding our program from being Trauma-Informed to holding commitment for continued growth toward Trauma Transformation. He heavily impacted our practices through collaboratively mapped-out, individualized and scaffolded training, embedding ongoing reflective practices, and supporting us in re-imagining systems to include equity-informed trauma-transforming practices into all of our work.

He inspired staff to look deeply at the benefit of self and program reflection on our work with children and families and inspired courage in addressing complex barriers staff, children and families face. His work with our program was rooted at the start with the goal of self-sustained growth, long after our multi-year partnership concluded. Because of his persistent belief in our program, we continue the work on our own. “Dave Melnick” is now a verb at CVHS, used when taking action toward an especially challenging problem or faced with a complex situation.

Lastly, Dave exemplifies the importance of genuine collegial support, inclusivity, and equity as the basis for mental health and wellness and ultimately positive child, family, and staff outcomes. He led us through this work with recognition of and respect for the exceptional work our staff performs each day.

Best, Holly Moriglioni

Children’s Services and Professional Development Manager

Franklin/Grand Isle County Office: 39 Barlow Street, St. Albans	802 524 5876
Chittenden County Office: 19 Roosevelt Hwy, Suite 305, Colchester	802 872 2819
Addison County Office: 87 Rivers Bend Road, New Haven	802 388 9881



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