

*This newsletter will keep you informed about how the work is progressing.
A new issue will be released every four to six weeks.*

What is the SSIP?

Vermont's Children's Integrated Services -Early Intervention (CIS-EI) supports families with young children who have developmental delays, or who are at risk of having developmental delays, by providing services in accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA). Knowing parents are their children's first and most important teachers, CIS-EI partners with families in their homes and in community settings to provide services that support children's development.

To enhance Vermont CIS-EI's work, the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is requiring every state's Early Intervention program to develop a five-year plan, known as the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) that identifies a State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR). The SSIP strategies will improve outcomes and the quality of life for infants and toddlers receiving CIS EI services.

Vermont's chosen SIMR is that: Families are able to help their infants and toddlers develop and learn functional social and/or emotional skills, and infants and toddlers substantially improve their social and/or emotional functional development. Supporting social and emotional development fosters positive relationships for children within their families, school and broader community. Doing this will help children now and in the future. Through the SSIP, CIS-EI will implement strategies that directly and positively impact families' ability to support their children's healthy social and emotional development.

Four Main Interconnected Strategies:

Targeted Supports:

Bennington, Brattleboro and Hartford have begun implementing the identified targeted supports to support improved functional social and emotional development for infants and toddlers.

Throughout the implementation of these targeted supports, the regions will be evaluating implementation fidelity and whether the targeted support yielded the intended result. Early next spring the regions will begin evaluating their initial data to determine whether any alterations are necessary to the planned supports. The identified targeted supports and evaluation results will be shared widely with the field after July 1, 2017, once we have had a years' worth of data.

Infrastructure Alignment:

The State has begun identifying ways to improve collaboration with Building Bright Futures and other key entities responsible for personnel development for the early childhood field. By collaborating broadly, Vermont can work toward a vision of creating a seamless and comprehensive system of personnel development. Such a system would enable an aligned structure of personnel development, maximize resources, ensure the capacity of relevant trainings, and support recruitment and retention across early childhood practitioner disciplines.

The State has begun to explore how we can more closely align with Help Me Grow, Building Bright Futures, and Everything Matters for Babies efforts to promote child find activities and early screening to ensure Vermont children are supported to realize their full potential. Watch for more information about these efforts in the coming months.

Four Main Interconnected Strategies continued...

Family Engagement:

ICC-The new ICC website with detailed information for families and practitioners about who we are, our role, and how to get involved is live! Please check it out at <http://cispartners.vermont.gov/icc> and send any feedback to Heather Case at heather.case@partner.vermont.gov.

Community Café- In collaboration with the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Promise Communities initiative, CIS will bring Robin Higa back to Vermont to deliver another “Parent Community Café” training. In reflecting with other stakeholders and practitioners in the field, it is recommended that practitioners learn about parent cafés so they can better support families to attend. The two-day agenda will inform practitioners and stakeholders on the importance of this model, as well as training for new and old cohort participants with a lunch organized in true community café style! Watch for the “Save the Date”.

Family and Community Engagement Rubric- Many regions make concerted efforts to grow a culture of trust and partnership between families, community members, and formal educators. To support this important work, CIS, along with key partners including Building Bright Futures and Promise Communities, is developing an assessment and planning toolkit on family and community engagement practices. Family and community engagement varies widely across Vermont, and this effort seeks to strengthen those programs that have systems already in place to engage families and communities, and to offer a path forward for programs seeking to enhance their family and community engagement practices. We will be seeking your input on these tools soon!

Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD):

Strategic Planning Team (SPT)-The SPT met for the second time on September 12th with a deep dive into developing the components and decision-making process for our Early Childhood In-service Professional Development Framework. We are still accepting feedback into our Early Childhood CSPD Vision/Mission Statement. To participate, please go to: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1djt84WylDXxtWSsLao8tJWzizEpIFCJNimIIR4XtGY/edit?usp=sharing>

You are always welcome at our future Strategic Planning Team (SPT) meetings, currently planned for:

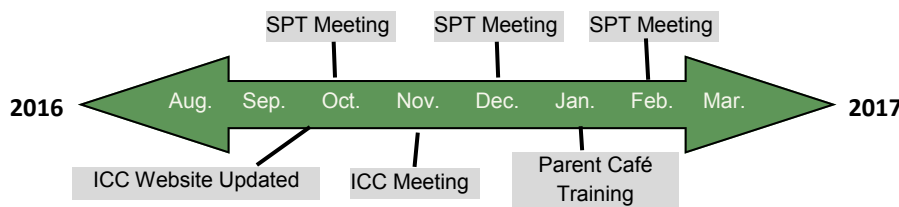
- Monday December 5, 2016
- Monday February 6, 2017
- Monday April 3, 2017
- Monday June 5, 2017

Please contact Natalie.Whitfield@partner.vermont.gov if you would like to join a CSPD workgroup, or if you have any comments, suggestions, questions, or observations you wish to share.

Retention- A diverse team of stakeholders analyzed data from the “Survey for the Retention of CIS Practitioners.” Three retention strategies were identified and submitted to the Recruitment and Retention Workgroup, and CIS Program Managers for roll out to the field. Stay tuned: these will be coming to you early this winter!

Early Intervention (EI) Credentialing- During an EI Certification Debrief, over 25 stakeholders evaluated the certification process and developed a range of strategies and improvements for the certification moving forward.

Estimated State Systematic Improvement Plan Schedule of Projects



For questions related to the SSIP, please contact Danielle Howes, Part C Coordinator at Danielle.Howes@vermont.gov