

*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:

Through their current implementation of their identified targeted supports, the Bennington, Brattleboro and Hartford regions are evaluating implementation fidelity and whether the targeted support yielded the intended result. The State will share more information on this strategy in the coming months as more data is gathered and analyzed.

Infrastructure Alignment:

Infrastructure alignment continues with collaborations between CIS and Promise Community family engagement activities as well as professional development collaboration that is emerging with the CDD professional development transforming work and Building Bright Futures. Further, CIS has been an active participant in the meetings to develop an Infant-Toddler credential for the early childhood education field. These important connections, among others, ensure that the system is aligned, effective and efficient so we can maximize resources and consistency across the early childhood field.

Community Spotlight:

Babywearers of Central Vermont- "Babywearing" simply means holding or carrying a baby or young child using a baby carrier. Holding babies is natural and universal; baby carriers make it easier and more comfortable, allowing parents and caregivers to hold or carry their children while attending to the daily tasks of living. Babywearers of Central Vermont is an educational non-profit that teaches families how to use carriers effectively and safely. Their monthly meetings are free and open to all. They are a great way to learn about babywearing, connect with others, and support each other as parents and caregivers. Meetings are the second Thursday (9:30am – 11:30am) and the fourth Monday (5:45pm – 7:15pm) of each month at 174 River Street (2nd Floor), in Montpelier. Please visit their website at <http://www.babywearerscentralvt.com/> for more information on how to donate or get involved.

Four Main Interconnected Strategies continued...

Family Engagement:

Community Café -In collaboration with the Promise Communities Initiative, the Family Engagement Coordinator will be bringing Robin Higa back to Vermont to deliver a “Community Café” learning experience. The Community Café method is a valuable method for hosting meaningful parent-led conversations that can help improve families’ leadership skills, experience of community, and provide a venue for harvesting families’ input into the services we provide! We invite you and families you serve who are interested in learning more about hosting community cafés to join us on **Wednesday January 4, 2017**, at Mount Snow Vermont. Please see the invitations that are circulating for more information. The CIS staff in Bennington have agreed to be the first CIS region to create a community café targeted to harvest discussions and information about local CIS community resources that support successful and sustained family and community engagement practices. Several Cohort I Promise Communities already use the Community Café method. Vermont’s Child Development Division is committed to developing this method around the state to support meaningful family leadership and engagement in providing valuable input as we seek to continuously improve our services.

Please contact Heather Case at heather.case@partner.vermont.gov for further information and the invitation for families and community members.

Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD):

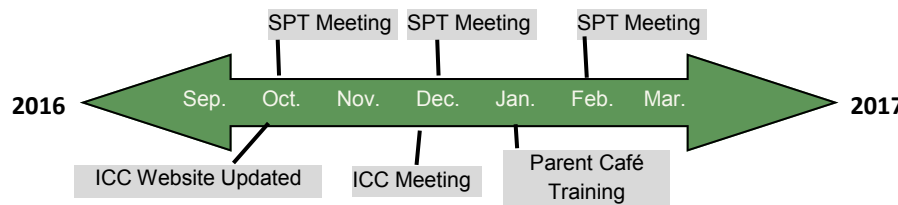
Vision: Vermont’s Early Childhood Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) supports professionals to effectively engage with families to realize the promise of every child.

Mission: Vermont’s Early Childhood Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) provides a framework, through continual evaluation, for the provision of ongoing, coordinated professional learning opportunities. These opportunities enable highly qualified and supported personnel to ensure the implementation of recommended practices informed by research, ongoing assessment, and family wisdom and values.

Current Initiatives and Activities:

1. Integration workgroup (CIS and CDD) meets regularly to discuss CDD transformation and CIS CSPD alignment. Meet with BBF PPD regularly. BBF PPD is exploring promoting the integration an Early Childhood CSPD using the technical assistance provided by the Early Childhood Personnel Center.
2. Recruitment and retention survey (over 200 responses – 75% return rate) compared against national data for non -profits. Data and retention strategies were disseminated to the field on 12/7/16 via webinar. CIS State Technical Assistance Liaisons will be working with the regions on how to develop and implement retention strategies informed by these data.
3. Professional development framework is under development. This will help us make data-informed decisions, is applicable across the early childhood workforce to support overcoming silos, and a provides a way to document decision making for accountability. CIS-EI has awarded CIS-EI certificates to over 50 field staff. A CSPD sub-group is working to update the 2007 ECFMH Competencies.
4. We are connecting with the early childhood higher education workgroup; and addressing the need for an increased number of field placements.

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