

*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 Phase III?

Begun in 2015, Vermont's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is now in the Implementation and Evaluation phase, commonly referred to as Phase III. During this phase, the State will assess and report on how well:

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.

Four Main Interconnected Strategies:

Targeted Supports:

In February the three regions finalized their evaluation plans and strategic targeted supports. The regions are implementing their identified targeted supports with a cohort of families. The regions and State will meet on June 6th to ensure implementation fidelity and for the regions to receive any needed technical assistance. The first six months of data will be reviewed in early fall. Once a meaningful level of data is collected, these data will be shared with the broader field. You can learn about the targeted supports strategies and evaluation measures from the Phase III document on the SSIP website (see below).

Infrastructure Alignment:

Infrastructure alignment continues with collaborations between CIS and CDD Promise Community family engagement activities; professional development collaboration with CDD-CIS and the CDD professional development transforming work, Building Bright Futures, and the Agency of Education. CIS is 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.

Quality Improvement Spotlight:

Quality Improvement is an on-going, continuous process. It is often punctuated by formal procedures and identified time frames that help anchor us in taking stock, stepping back, reflecting, and moving forward. On March 17, 2017, the Vermont Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC) hosted the CIS-EI regions, CIS Coordinators, and CIS State Team members for a day of quality improvement work. This was an opportunity to share and understand the CIS-EI data to acknowledge and improve the life-changing work CIS -EI does each day in partnership with families. The CIS-EI system of care relies on expertise, commitment, quality data, and experience to move us all forward. The March VICC meeting was an important forum to focus on our collective experience, practice wisdom, and data to inform and ensure best practice with young children and their families.

Data illuminates solutions to our challenges.

We use data as an essential tool to see the big picture and make intentional decisions that enable us to focus our limited resources to promote positive outcomes for children, families, and staff.

For more information on the SSIP, please visit our website at: <http://cispartners.vermont.gov/ssip> or contact Danielle Howes, Part C Coordinator at danielle.howes@vermont.gov

Four Main Interconnected Strategies continued...

Fostering Family Connections

Community Café

Bennington and Orange are beginning to schedule parent-led conversations targeting their harvested discussions about local CIS community resources that support successful and sustained family and community engagement practices. Both regions have identified 1-2 parents that are interested in hosting cafes within their communities. The information harvested from these cafes will inform moving this approach forward in other CIS regions.

Are you interested in providing a space for families to develop relationships, enhance leadership skills, and find a shared voice to create positive change within the systems that support and strengthen families in their communities? Heather Case, the Family Engagement Coordinator can train identified families within their communities on this model.

*Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC)
 We need your voice!*

We are looking for providers from all areas of the state to participate as a member of the VICC. Provider members are highly valued and their input informs plans for the Part C Program and the broader Children's Integrated Services program. For further information or to apply for gubernatorial appointment, please contact Heather Case or check out our website at <http://cispartners.vermont.gov/icc>.

You are invited to the VICC meeting on May 18th, from 9am- 3pm at the State office building in Waterbury. We will review the ICC website, update our by-laws, set priority action items for the 2017-2018 Council year, schedule meeting dates and locations, and preview the orientation manual for new members. This is a time to celebrate all of the work that has been done this past year!

*Family & Community Engagement Practices
 Self-Assessment Screener & Rubric
 We need your voice!*

We are looking for families and providers to participate in a family and community engagement work group. Two tools are being developed to assess the 7 elements of successful and sustained family engagement. Input from families and practitioners will ensure these tools are effective to supporting Vermont's family engagement practices.

For further information and to participate in the work group, please contact Heather Case at heather.case@partner.vermont.gov.

Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD):

Strategic Planning Teams

The fifth SPT met on April 3rd to use the Decision-Making Framework (DMF) to analyze data reports, evaluation surveys, standards and competencies to brainstorm CIS training priorities for 2017-2018. The next SPT is scheduled for June 5, 2017, and will prioritize and recommend professional development opportunities, and how to best build the CIS CSPD.

Integration Workgroup

This workgroup meets monthly to discuss the CDD transformation, and aligning VT's Early Childhood Professional Development System, and CIS CSPD by looking at Professional Development Principles, shared outcomes, training priorities and other integration objectives. Building Bright Futures Professional Preparation and Development committee has adopted a system-wide Vision statement, and is working on a final Mission statement. The DMF is being considered by the Workgroup to determine training priorities. The DMF will help us make data-informed decisions, is applicable across the early childhood workforce to support overcoming silos, and provides a way to document decision making for accountability.

Inservice Professional Development:

The Baby I-Team and the State Team co-developed a training on writing functional goals from family priorities which will be offered at the CIS Institute.

CIS Institute

Using the DMF, CIS and regional stakeholders developed a cutting-edge parallel process execution of the Family Partnership model, co-facilitated with trainings on specific tools and topics related to Family Engagement. Lynne Kemp of MECSH will keynote and Camille Catlett also offered resources to support the Institute.

Estimated SSIP Schedule of Projects

