

SAVE THE DATE

Pre-Summit Focus Sessions

As many of you know, the Governor announced an Early Childhood Summit in his second inaugural address and directed Secretary Racine at the Agency of Human Services to oversee its organization. The Summit will be held on Tuesday, October 29th, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier.

The Summit Planning Committee will be holding a series of pre-Summit focus sessions this summer and fall. The sessions, which will be open to anyone interested in participating, are intended to provide Vermonters with an opportunity to share their perspectives and ideas on a range of topics. Interested individuals will be encouraged to think beyond their own "role" (employer, parent, educator, community member, advocate, service provider, etc.) when deciding which focus session(s) to attend. These sessions will be a rare opportunity to think expansively and "outside the box" about what it will take to realize the promise of every Vermont child.

Note that the sessions are not necessarily discrete and stand alone. Since the topics intersect with each other, participants will most likely end up drawing from previous focus sessions when brainstorming on a particular topic.

The ideas and recommendations that emerge from the focus sessions will feed into the Early Childhood Framework, which will be one of the concrete outcomes of the Summit. This Framework will be a set of shared agreements on many aspects of Vermont's early childhood system. The Framework will build on what we know is working well for Vermont's young children and their families and outline what needs to change in order to realize the promise of every Vermont child.

Date: Tuesday, July 30th
Location: Middlebury
Topic: Creating a comprehensive and connected range of services and supports for young children and their families and ensuring access and equity to those services and supports (housing, transportation, food, employment, medical care, mental health care, substance abuse counseling, etc.)

Date: Wednesday, July 31st
Location: Montpelier
Topic: Building a systems-wide structure for intentional collaboration, communication and aligned practice among diverse partners

Date: Monday, August 12th
Location: Brattleboro
Topic: Promoting a holistic, shared and consistent approach to pedagogy and practice from infancy through third grade

-SEE NEXT PAGE-

GOVERNOR'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SUMMIT

Date: Tuesday, August 13th
Location: White River Junction
Topic: Valuing and engaging families as decision makers (for their families, in policy development, in programming, for the system)

Date: Wednesday, September 4th
Location: Rutland
Topic: Developing a competent workforce across disciplines that is built upon a shared foundation (knowledge and skills)

Date: Tuesday, September 10th
Location: Burlington
Topic: Ensuring a sustainable and accountable early childhood financing structure

Date: Thursday, September 12th
Location: Morrisville
Topic: Building and sustaining child-centered communities where there exists public engagement and public will in actively promoting and supporting the vision to realize the promise of every Vermont child

Date: ****Tuesday, September 24th****
Location: St. Johnsbury
Topic: one of the topics listed above

Date: ****Thursday, September 26th****
Location: Randolph
Topic: one of the topics listed above

Date: Saturday, September 28th (9:30 AM -12:30 PM)
Location: Randolph
Topic: At the beginning of the session, participants will determine which of the 7 topics listed above will be discussed.

****We have set aside more days than we may need.** We are holding these two days (Sept. 24 & 26) in the event that any one of the focus sessions attracts more participants than is conducive to a good discussion. In that case, we will hold *two* sessions on the *same* topic. However, we will not be able to make that determination until registration for each session begins. Please stay tuned.

Pre-Summit Focus Group with Parents

Thursday, September 26th, Randolph, 7:00-8:30 PM

In addition to the focus session on family engagement, we will also hold a focus group with parents/caregivers (anyone who is caring for a young child) to hear their perspective on what is working well for Vermont's children, what could be improved and how. Snacks will be provided.

-SEE NEXT PAGE-

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Registration

Participants will be required to pre-register for the focus sessions and the parent focus group. Be on the look-out for an email that contains registration information.

The start and end times for the focus sessions will be sent out with registration information.

For More Information

Contact Kim Friedman, Summit Planner, at (802) 348-9879 or kfriedman@svcable.net.