

## **Section 1: WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF VERMONT CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL!**

### **What does Vermont's child care Resource and Referral look like?**

There are 12 agencies spread throughout Vermont who provide child care resource, referral and subsidy services to Vermont parents and providers. Each of you is a member of one of these agencies.

### **How are we able to provide our services to Vermont families?**

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is a federal fund, distributed to states as mandatory funding for child care. These funds can be applied toward a variety of child care related services, including services that support families in finding and paying for child care and services seeking to improve the quality of care, such as supporting the professional development of early educators in state-regulated programs.

In Vermont, the recipient of these funds is the Child Development Division (CDD), located in the Department for Children and Families in the Agency of Human Services. CDD is responsible for ensuring that the child care support monies are expended in accordance with federal and state regulations.

### **What is the role of the Child Development Division?**

The Child Development Division funds the 12 VACCRRRA member agencies to deliver regional child care resource, referral and subsidy services. The division is committed to delivering quality services statewide and has developed a strong vision for access to high quality child support services so that all Vermont children get a good start. VACCRRRA is proud to partner with CDD.

### **What is the role of VACCRRRA?**

VACCRRRA (Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies), is the professional organization of the 12 regional CCR+R agencies funded by CDD. VACCRRRA is committed to supporting the delivery of high quality services and strengthening the quality of child care in Vermont. The VACCRRRA coordinator works closely with the Executive committee, service group liaisons, specialists from the 12 agencies and CDD program managers to provide support and professional development opportunities to specialists.

## **Section 2: What is a VACCRRRA Sponsored Service Group?**

A VACCRRRA sponsored service group is a peer led professional thought forum that encourages networking and best practice discussions among peers in a professional and supportive environment, drawing upon state guidance and outside resources.

### **Why does VACCRRRA support professional thought forums among Service Groups?**

Our goals are to:

- Increase staff knowledge of best practices in child care support services;
- Increase communication and collaboration among agencies and with partners;
- Share accurate information through the utilization of available resources, inclusive of CDD and invited guests of interest;
- Encourage the development of a cohesive, unified group of professionals;
- Create opportunities for networking and sharing best practices: i.e.: Review all agencies' orientation processes and develop recommendations to best orient new specialists to the field.
- Provide leadership opportunities. i.e.: Support liaison development, encourage staff to participate in educational opportunities.
- Support and provide group identified skills related trainings. i.e.: Review special requests for statewide trainings of interest.

### **How does a VACCRRRA Sponsored Service Group work?**

- Voluntary participation: Members participate because they value and benefit from these forums.
- Collaborative approach: Participate in shared agenda planning with peers, CDD, and the VACCRRRA Coordinator.
- Peer Leadership: Peer-designated liaison fulfills duties as detailed in "liaison job description," acting as the spokesperson for the group, primary contact for group members, meeting facilitator and point person / chief communicator with VACCRRRA Coordinator.
- VACCRRRA Guidelines: Group acceptance of the enclosed best practices principles, meeting guidelines, and email etiquette.