

Summary of VECCS Fall Planning Meeting October 11, 2005

The VECCS state planning meeting was held October 2005 with key public and private partners to review the Virginia Early Childhood State Plan. This meeting was the group's first look at the combined comprehensive state plan made up of the five previously developed component specific plans formed by workgroups in the eighteen months preceding the fall meeting. The goal of the meeting was to evaluate the plan in the areas of: Leadership, Priorities for the Plan, Community Engagement, and Indicators and Data Development.

The participants separated into four breakout sessions and after intensive review and discussion the groups presented a series of recommendations for improving Virginia's service delivery to families of young children. Three common goals and several priority areas across the groups emerged for moving the plan forward and proceeding with the implementation process. First Infrastructure - with a focus on the leadership structure and strengthening the public/private partnership; second, Engagement of the community and families and finally, Finance - with an emphasis on maximizing existing funds and innovative ways to acquire additional monies.

Implementation: Emerging Priorities

Recommendations from the October 2005 state-planning meeting outlined priorities on which to focus resources for the state plan:

- Continue to facilitate the development of strong leadership at both the state and community level using existing structures to lead and coordinate a system of integrated services focusing on issues facing families and young children in Virginia.
- Develop a public/private data center to provide a virtual warehouse for data and technical assistance to data consumers.
- Develop uniform performance measures across agencies to provide a more integrated service delivery approach and to evaluate progress.
- Work with communities to assist in developing or enhancing planning and delivering integrated services to young children and families.
- Market the importance of early learning and nurturing environments and supporting early childhood services.
- Secure adequate funding of programs and services for families and young children as an investment for the future and school readiness.