THE VERMONT WOMEN’S ECONOMIC SECURITY SUMMIT
Thursday, October 8th, 2015, at the Vermont State House

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Impacts of Incarceration (in House chamber): This panel presentation and facilitated discussion will focus on economic impacts of incarceration on Vermont women – whether it’s their own incarceration, or that of a family member causing collateral consequences.

Health Care (in room 11): This panel presentation and discussion will address some of the challenges and opportunities surrounding access to health care and related effects on women’s economic stability.

Citizen Advocacy Training (in room 10): This interactive session will support advocates in their goals to influence policy change at the local or state level, in the State House and beyond. The training will include: understanding the Vermont Legislature, legislators and regulators; becoming effective advocates with policymakers in the State House and in the community; and discussing policy issues likely to be considered during the 2016 legislative session.

CO-HOSTS

The Vermont Commission on Women (VCW): A non-partisan state government commission established in 1964 working to advance rights and opportunities for women and girls. Sixteen volunteer commissioners and representatives from twenty-five organizations concerned with women’s issues guide VCW’s public education, coalition building, and advocacy efforts. VCW has recently launched the VT Equal Pay Compact, a voluntary pledge that employers sign to indicate their commitment to closing the gender wage gap in Vermont, and a new statewide events calendar.

Women’s Legislative Caucus: Members meet during the session to discuss bills relating to women and families. Membership is open to all Representatives and Senators.

PRESENTER ORGANIZATIONS

Vermont Department of Labor: The department promotes Vermont’s economic strength by assisting employers with job creation, retention and recruitment; coordinating the education and training of our workforce for Vermont’s current and future job opportunities; ensuring that Vermont workers have well-paying jobs in safe work environments; administering economic support and reemployment assistance to workers who suffer a job loss or workplace injury; and providing labor market information and analysis to the enable effective planning and decision-making relating to economic, education, labor and employment policies and direction.

Women’s Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor: The Bureau was created by law in 1920 to formulate standards and policies to promote the welfare of wage-earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency, and advance their opportunities for profitable employment. The Bureau develops policies and standards and conducts inquiries to safeguard the interests of working women; to advocate for their equality and economic security for themselves and their families; and to promote quality work environments.

Vermont Early Childhood Alliance: A statewide coalition of early childhood professionals, parents, businesses and strategic partners working together to realize the promise of every Vermont child.
Vermont Child Care Industry & Careers Council (VCCICC): The Council supports Vermont's children, families, communities, schools and businesses by promoting the highest quality child care for young and school age children through the recruitment, development, mentoring and retention of qualified child care professionals. VCCICC works to enhance the knowledge, skills and status of child care providers by offering the Apprenticeship Program and other professional development activities; advocating for salaries commensurate with expertise; and collaborating, coordinating and linking with other leaders and organizations in order to build quality and sustain growth of the child care industry.

Change the Story Vermont: A multi-year strategy spearheaded by the Vermont Women’s Fund, the Vermont Commission on Women, and Vermont Works for Women that aligns philanthropy, policy, and program to speed progress in developing the economic potential of women and Vermont.

Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC): A not-for-profit organization dedicated to reducing the economic and environmental costs of energy use. Through comprehensive energy efficiency utilities and implementation and consulting services, VEIC works with utilities, government agencies, and foundations in the design and delivery of energy efficiency and renewable energy services.


Vermont Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured (VCCU): A group of ten clinics throughout the state of Vermont, including five free primary health care clinics, five referral program clinics, and three dental clinics, dedicated to providing access to health care for uninsured and under-insured Vermont residents.

Essex Community Justice Center: Since 2003, the Center has provided restorative justice programming with a focus on crime prevention, conflict resolution and meeting the needs of those affected by crime. Through multiple programs, staff and local volunteers support victims, address local crime, and work with offenders to lower their risk of recidivism and enhance community safety.

Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform (VCJR): A non-profit educational and advocacy organization dedicated to working for a more restorative and effective criminal justice response.

Vermont Parent Representation Center (VPRC): A not-for-profit law, social work, and public policy organization with the following goals: reduce the number of children removed from their families into state and other out-of-home custody; shorten the length of stay in state and other out-of-home custody for children who have been removed; and reduce the number of children re-entering state and other out-of-home custody after being reunified with their families.

Building Bright Futures (BBF): A statewide nonprofit, public-private partnership focused on improving the well-being of young children and families by improving the system that serves them. BBF serves as the Vermont Early Childhood Advisory Council and is charged with specific responsibilities for improving the quality of services for families and young children by establishing a system for planning, coordinating, integrating and developing evidence-informed early childhood interventions, forward-thinking policies, public information and resources at the state and regional levels.

Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO): OEO works in partnership with the private sector, community-based organizations, and others to increase the self-sufficiency of Vermonters, strengthen Vermont communities, and eliminate the causes and symptoms of poverty.

Main Street Alliance of Vermont: The Alliance is a national network of state-based small business coalitions. The Alliance creates opportunities for small business owners to speak for themselves, advancing public policies that are good for our businesses, employees and communities.