

WINSTON PROUTY Center for Child and Family Development

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WINDHAM CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES MERGER WITH WINSTON PROUTY CENTER FOR CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT IN BRATTLEBORO

BRATTLEBORO (April 24, 2017) --- Windham Child Care Association today announced that, effective June 30, 2017, it would cease operating and integrate its programs, services and staff into Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development, located at 209 Austine Drive, Vermont Hall, in Brattleboro.

Windham Child Care Association (WCCA) has served as a vital resource to families and early educators for 35 years, advocating for growth and change in the field of early care and education.

According to Margaret Atkinson, WCCA Executive Director, due to an extensive reorganization of statewide programs for early care and education providers, one of WCCA's major contracts with the Child Development Division (CDD) has been eliminated.

"That CDD contract largely paid for support of professional development of early educators in the region, and made up one quarter of our annual budget," Atkinson said, "This funding loss endangers all the other programs and supports we offer, and ultimately affects our existence as an organization."

Atkinson continued, "WCCA provides key support for families with young children and for early educators. To preserve and strengthen our remaining programs and services, it just makes sense partner with an allied organization."

"Windham Child Care Association has collaborated with the Prouty Center for many years as part of the Children's Integrated Services team," said Chloe Learey, Winston Prouty Center executive director, "Both of our organizations seek to support the success of all children and families."

Some of the programs and services that will be integrated into the Prouty Center are:

- *Child Care Referral Program*: provides personalized counseling, consumer education and referral support for families in need of child care.
- *Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP)*: assists families, including those whose child care options are limited due to financial constraints, mental health issues or other family challenges, in accessing state-sponsored child care tuition assistance.
- *Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)* is part of the National School Lunch Act, administered through the US Department of Agriculture. CACFP guidelines ensure that food served to children in child care provides for optimum growth and development of children. Child care providers are reimbursed monthly for meals that meet the USDA standards.
- *Early Learning Express*: a bookmobile which visits child care programs, local housing communities and summer food program sites throughout Windham County bringing books, literacy activities and curriculum materials to early education programs.

Learey added, "The welcomed addition of WCCA's programs to the Prouty Center's **Community Based Services** will strengthen the Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development as an important community asset, a resource for families, and a leader in the early childhood community."

The Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development provides inclusive education and family support to promote the success of children and families. The Center is comprised of the **Early Learning Center** and **Community Based Services**, which includes **Family Supportive Housing (FSH)**, a program to help families with young children who are homeless find and maintain housing, and **Children's Integrated Services (CIS)**, the state of Vermont's program for providing support to young children (0 to 6) and their families; CIS includes Early Intervention, Family Support, Early Childhood Family Mental Health (with HCRS), Nursing, and Specialized Child Care (with Windham Child Care Association). The Early Learning Center offers early care and education for children age 6 weeks through 5 years

For more information, visit www.winstonprouty.org or call (802) 257-7852.