The Governor’s Office for Children Announces the 2014 Maryland Child and Family Services Interagency Strategic Plan

The Governor’s Office for Children, on behalf of the Maryland Children’s Cabinet, would like to announce the launch of an interagency strategic planning process that will enable Maryland to update and revise the 2008 Maryland Child and Family Services Interagency Strategic Plan (ISP). We are excited for the opportunity to mark our progress and address recommendations and strategies that continue to need our attention. All interested stakeholders – including family members, youth, children and youth advocates, child serving providers, and state and local agency staff – are invited and encouraged to participate in the planning process.

A series of webinars will be posted online to promote participation in the strategic planning process. The first webinar will be posted on October 7, 2014 and will provide an orientation to the process, including a brief review of the 2008 plan, implementation updates, and the process for the 2014 update. From October 8, 2014 through November 5, 2014, a new webinar will be posted each Wednesday related to one or more of the Interagency Strategic Plan themes. The webinars will include updates on progress made on the theme as well as presentations on best practices and activity around the nation. Each of these webinars will contain a link to an online survey where you will have the opportunity to provide specific input regarding the recommendations and strategies for that theme.

Family members, youth and young adults will be invited to participate in focus groups as well as in additional online surveys. Listening forums will be open to the public and will be held in late October or early November in two locations across the state. Interested participants are strongly encouraged to view the orientation webinar prior to participating in any of the themed webinars, focus groups, listening forums, or online surveys.

The final report will be printed and disseminated in the beginning of January 2015. This ambitious timeline is dependent upon the ability of stakeholders to plan ahead and dedicate time to participate in this critical process this fall. We value and look forward to your participation in support of the Children’s Cabinet’s efforts to continue to improve Maryland’s child-family serving delivery system to better anticipate and respond to the needs of youth and families across the state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to isp@ssw.umaryland.edu.