

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES  
May 14, 1997

ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF VERMONT SERVICE PROVIDERS

May 15, 1997, marks the eleventh annual conference of Vermont developmental service providers. It is a highly valued, and attended, occasion that brings people from all over the state together to celebrate the efforts and accomplishments of direct-support workers. Over the years, the event has expanded to include a greater participation of people with disabilities, advocates, family members and guardians, both as participants and as presenters. This year, for example, half the break-out sessions include people with disabilities as presenters.

The theme of the conference is "Self-Determination - Part II," reflecting a continuation of the topic so well received last year. The offered sessions cover a wide range of interests; including communication, self-advocacy, family centered care, literacy, preservation of relationships, supported employment and the RWJ Self-Determination Project.

Registration for this year's event is approximately 530 people. This conference facilitates the 'once a year opportunity' for all stakeholders to gather together to share stories, celebrate in successes, and look with pride and anticipation toward the coming year.

For additional information, contact Michelle Sures. Phone: (802)223-1773, e-mail: [msures@aol.com](mailto:msures@aol.com).