

The mission of the AHS Office of the Secretary is to:

- * provide leadership and set Agency priorities across the six departments of AHS;
- * promote integrated planning, delivery, and evaluation of resources and services; and
- * ensure that Agency resources (personnel, fiscal, technology, and space) are managed effectively.

Agency of Human Services Department Descriptions

Office of the Secretary: The Office includes the Division of Administrative Services that provides Agency planning and oversight functions for the Secretary. It also provides support for the Division of Rate Setting, the Human Services Board, and the Developmental Disabilities Council. The VT Commission on National & Community Service joined the Agency in fiscal year 2010.

Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living(DAIL): The Department assists older Vermonters and adults with disabilities to live as independently as possible. It helps adults with disabilities to find and maintain meaningful employment. It licenses inpatient health care facilities and long-term care providers. The Department also protects elders and adults with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Department of Corrections (DOC): In partnership with Vermont communities, DOC serves and protects the public by offering a continuum of graduated sanctions for offenders to repair the damage their crimes have caused to victims and communities. The Department operates Corrections facilities for incarcerated offenders and Community Correctional Service Centers for offenders convicted of lesser crimes. It also supports Community Reporative Boards that develop sanctions and restorative plans to enable nonviolent offenders make amends for their crimes and return value to their communities.

Department of Health (DOH): DOH protects and promotes health, and prevents disease and injury through public health programs to maintain and improve the health status of all Vermonters. Programs focus on infectious and chronic disease control and prevention (e.g., injury prevention, and healthy babies programs), surveillance (e.g., disease reporting), and protection (e.g., restaurant inspections).

Department of Mental Health (DMH): DMH promotes the health and well being of Vermonters in coordination with community organizations, such as Designated agencies, Specialty Services agencies, and schools, as they provide statewide mental health services for children, families, adults and the elderly. These services include psychiatry, case management, employment, crisis, and residential care. In addition DMH operates the Vermont State Hospital and provides designation to the 5 independent psychiatric hospital units in the state that provide inpatient services for adults and children. The Department also works in collaboration with advocacy and consumer organizations to ensure that educational, support, and peer-directed services occur statewide.

Department for Children and Family Services (DCF): DCF administers many programs that address the basic needs of Vermonters. These programs promote the well-being of families and individuals through welfare-to-work services, in-kind benefits, and cash assistance. DCF also helps families and individuals lead healthy and independent lives by providing support services and offering educational, information, and prevention services to communities. Social services seek to break the cycle of abuse, neglect, and delinquency. Child care services play a lead role in developing quality child care

services in Vermont. The Division of Child Support enforces state and federal statutes to ensure that children receive financial support from non-custodial parents. Child Support improves financial security for children by obtaining child support obligations and payments.

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA): DVHA promotes the well-being of families and individuals through the provision of health care coverage. DVHA is the state office responsible for the management of Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and other publicly funded health insurance programs in Vermont. Additionally, in FY'08, DVHA became the lead agency in implementation of the state's new health care plan, Catamount Health. As such, it is the largest insurer in Vermont with regard to dollars spent and the second largest insurer with regard to covered lives.