

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

- Ensure that citizens, policy makers, and service providers are knowledgeable about the well being of Vermonters;
- Promote integrated planning, delivery, and evaluation of resources and services; and
- Ensure that Agency resources (personnel, fiscal, technology, and space) are managed effectively.

Secretary's Office Administration Appropriation:

The Secretary's Office is responsible for the central support functions of the Agency of Human Services. As such it houses several units and associated programs that cut across departments or are independent of departments. In FY 2013 they include:

- Field Services
- Housing and Transportation Coordination,
- Health Care Operations, Compliance and Improvement
- Refugee Resettlement Coordination
- Fiscal Unit
- Information Technology Unit
- Committee for National and Community Services

Two independent boards are also housed within the Agency and receive some support from the Secretary's Office. These are the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council and the Tobacco Evaluation & Review Board. A third independent Board, The Human Services Board, is included under the umbrella and receives basic administrative support from AHS.

Hurricane Irene has placed an extra demand on resources, both money and staff, coordinating services across the entire Agency. The long term effect of this storm is expected to continue into State Fiscal 2013 and beyond.

Field Services

This division has broad responsibility for the operations of all Agency of Human Services functions within each region. Regional Field Directors are charged with assuring the optimal functioning of the Agency, oversight of district offices and mobilization of the local community to design and implement a human services system which contributes to the health and well-being of all Vermonters.

Field Directors work with local state managers, private sector managers, community partnerships, education, the community, and with individuals participating in services to develop and implement effective service delivery systems. To achieve that end, they utilize the following specific programmatic strategies in addition to their ongoing connections and participation in larger community initiatives:

Fiscal Unit:

The fiscal unit coordinates the development of the Agency's budget (including Global Commitment to Health Waiver) to ensure that departmental programs reflect the Governor's priorities and are in compliance with legislative requirements. The unit develops financial status reports and monitors key program performance indicators for each Agency department and office. The fiscal unit also coordinates all federal block grant internal audit and statewide single audit functions, development of the AHS indirect rate, updates on federal cost allocation plans, and monitors the Global Commitment Health 1115 waiver budget.

The fiscal unit includes the Division of Rate Setting. Rate setting audits and establishes Medicaid payment rates for nursing facilities for the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), intermediate care facilities for people with developmental disabilities for the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAAIL) and private non-medical institutions for the Department for Children and Family (DCF). Through the application of its rules, the unit evaluates the reasonableness and allowability of program budgets and expenditures to ensure both cost containment and quality of care.

Office of the Chief Information Officer and Network Systems:

The Agency's CIO office provides overall leadership in the development and use of information technology in the delivery of agency services. It assures that network, software and hardware support services are functioning at optimum levels throughout the agency; maintains the agency's web pages, coordinates the development of new web sites throughout the agency, develops and maintains applications and systems necessary to support the mission of the Agency, works with department IT managers on IT goals and standards, reviews and approves agency IT procurements, and provides broad oversight of all IT expenditures.

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council:

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (VTDDC) is a state-wide board that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. 60% of its members are self-advocates and family members. The mission of VTDDC is to facilitate connections and to promote supports that bring people with developmental disabilities into the heart of Vermont communities. Each year VTDDC uses its federal funds to engage in advocacy, capacity building, and

systems change activities, including projects in public education, leadership training, and advocacy aimed at enhancing services and supports, community participation and choice.

Tobacco Evaluation & Review Board:

The Vermont Tobacco Evaluation & Review Board, an independent state board, was established by the Legislature in July 2000. The Board establishes an annual budget, program criteria and policy development and oversees evaluation of the state's comprehensive tobacco control program.

VT Commission on National & Community Service

The Commission administers several federal grants to support community based initiatives throughout the state. The programs include Neighbor to Neighbor, the Dream mentoring initiative, the Northeast Kingdom Initiative, the Vermont Youth Development Corps, and Vermont Community Stewardship program.

DUALS

The purpose of this grant is to study the feasibility of coordinating Medicare and Medicaid payment and services for dual eligible recipients.