

**Agency of Human Services
Vermont Department of Health
Barre District Office**

Revised September 20, 2007

**Presented By: Jeff Hunsberger, MSW
VDH Barre Health Services District Director**

Barre VDH - Public Health Outreach Programs & Activities:

***WIC (Women, Infant, & Children Program) – The Barre DO continues to carry a case load of approx. 1440 people served monthly. Cornerstone program of VDH – income eligible services for families. People receive weight and measurements (growth tracking) of children, lead screening, breastfeeding support and counseling, formula, nutrition education, supplemental food, referrals to other programs/agencies as needed, etc. 13-14 Clinics held per month in Barre, Waterbury & every other month in Waitsfield and serves over 1400 people monthly. This program is overseen by VDH Barre Courtney Pletzer – Nutritionist /District Office Supervisor.**

***Nutrition Outreach Services - The VDH Barre Nutritionists (Courtney Pletzer & Bonnie Alexander) do various outreach activities during the year that include: health and wellness fairs, nutrition education classes with WIC participants & on request for various community groups & partners, Cooking for Life classes – sponsored by the VT campaign to end childhood hunger, individual nutrition support with community members, and consultation to participants in the Ladies First/Wise Women Program.**

***Immunization Program – Barre IZ Nurse Designee works with members of the public who have questions about immunizations for infant, children, and adults. In some cases, immunizations can be given at the VDH Barre DO. In coordination with CVHHH – Barre DO helped deliver 888 flu vaccines to Central Vermont citizens, helped distribute the flu vaccine to area providers to vaccinate high risk groups of children, elderly and those being treated for various high risk conditions – vaccinate state employees and other personnel working with high risk people. Steve also works with area License Day Care Facilities (Healthy Child Care VT. Program) regarding IZ education, reporting and monitoring in association with the Dept. of Family Services. VDH Barre Health Outreach Specialist Nancy Kapusta and VDH Barre District Office Clerk Barbara Barton maintain the immunization registry that is populated with IZ information from/with area Pediatricians regarding children. Terry Paine, VDH Barre District Office Administrative Assistant, monitors and organizes all vaccine distribution to provider practices. We also work with area schools to help them inform parents about immunizations and keeping them up to date.**

***Epidemiological Surveillance Program – The daily monitoring of infectious disease within the Central Vermont area. VDH Barre Epidemiology Nurse Designee Lois Polento works with area citizens, physicians, hospital staff, provider practices, and school nurses to monitor and investigate various reportable infectious diseases. She works closely with the VDH Central Office Epidemiology Program staff to report, monitor and investigate various reportable disease outbreaks – educate, inform, and coordinate local services as needed related to such situations. The Early Alert Reporting System (EARS) at CVMC is also a part of the surveillance system. Also a part of the Barre VDH Emergency Preparedness Team.**

***Maternal Child Health – Healthy Babies, Kids & Families Pgm. – In association with our community partners, VDH Barre Nurse Karen Brooks – our MCH Coordinator – helps monitor the needs of new families, mothers and babies, provides referrals for additional supports, provides breastfeeding supports, and provides leadership for the local MCH coalition. This is an on-going and very active program that has various efforts extending throughout the community such as the local Fatherhood Initiative & Teen Parenting Programs. Dell McDonough (Barre VDH Nurse Supervisor) is also involved with the collaborative outreach to the Dale Women’s Correctional Facility. Additionally, our Barre VDH MCH team participates in the state & local efforts to work with opiate addicted women (CRT - Community Response Team), promotes breastfeeding & provides breastfeeding supports to women, as well as administers the VDH breast pump program & conducts walk-in WIC certifications etc.**

***HIV / AIDS Pgm. – This VDH program helps to educate area providers, care givers and the general public about HIV & AIDS prevention. VDH Barre Nurse Steve Shoff is also the HIV / AIDS Designee in Barre, he frequently does trainings for area providers relating to taking universal precautions when working with people, HIV education, Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention, etc. Additionally, VDH provides medical, pharmacological, emotional, and dental supports for those diagnosed with HIV / AIDS via the VDH Central Office and other area programs. Free oral HIV testing is now available.**

***Fostering Health Families Program – This Family Services/VDH Barre/VCHIP (Vermont Child Health Improvement Program – UVM) collaborative program is designed to address the specific needs of any children who enter the custody of the State of Vermont due to abuse and / or neglect / juvenile delinquency / or unmanageability. Locally, VDH Barre Health Outreach Specialist Charlene Rinker works with Family Services and Washington County Mental Health to identify and refer children to the proper medical, dental and emotional supports they may need upon entry into State’s custody & prior to aging out of State custody. VDH Barre Nursing Supervisor, Dell McDonough, provides clinical nursing supports. We are also working to develop an additional focus on working with young adults who are transitioning out of State custody by “aging out” at 18 years of age – helping to at least help them plan for and be involved with health providers through this often**

difficult transition period. Various VDH Barre staff attend area child protection team meeting, work with and support family support & protective services child care, and participate in education and consultation to local foster parent meetings, trainings & newsletters.

***Healthy Child Care Vermont Program – Nurse designee works with both licensed and registered day care providers to support the health needs of children in their care. This can include consultation related to childhood immunizations & documentation, training & educational support, nutritional information & support, and program – personnel - and personal emergency preparation and planning.**

***EPSDT – Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnostic & Testing - This large and comprehensive VDH Health Insurance Program that helps children and teens be as healthy as they can be. EPSDT has elements related to many of the already mentioned programs. It is a part of WIC, MCH, and the IZ programs, Healthy Child Care Vermont, Lead Monitoring, and Fostering Healthy Families. Additionally, the EPSDT Program funds most of our work with schools relating to school health issues, school nutrition, connecting children and families with medical & dental homes, school environmental health issues, etc. VDH Barre Nurse Linda Seel is the designated District Office School Liaison.**

***Ladies First Pgm. – Locally, VDH Barre Health Outreach Specialist Katrina Pelkey, works with income eligible women to receive screening and diagnostic services related to breast cancer, cervical cancer, the monitoring of certain cardiovascular issues. Services are available to income eligible women for various issues between the ages of 18 – and up. Katrina supports the program by training and educating local physician practices in relation to the Ladies First Pgm. as well as providing community outreach displays related to women’s health.**

***Community Health Outreach Activities - Anne Ferguson, VDH Barre Chronic Disease Specialist works with area partners on the Blueprint for Health and to develop and provide various health related activities and educational events. More recently Anne has worked closely with Michelle Leno from CVMC to sponsor a Family Fun Day in Montpelier (Feb), community walking programs – Walking Through Winter, Get Out! & The Golden Shoes Pgm., Anne helped facilitate a Montpelier community forum (2005) related to individual health and well-being issues, BMI education seminar, BMI studies with six area schools to help them develop local plans to help kids and their parents be active together and reduce obesity etc. Anne is continuously working on various projects to “bring home” the types of activities and focus on preventative work with individuals to reduce chronic disease and obesity. Additionally, Anne has written several radio spots relating to Men’s and Women’s Health – one of which has been on “The Point” recently. Anne also outreaches to day care facilities and play groups with a focus on physical activity and exercise. Anne partners with CVMC as a part of their Blueprint Grant – community outreach.**

***Emergency Preparedness Program – VDH Barre - Ann Lindner Emergency Preparedness Public Health Specialist and Jeff Hunsberger VDH Barre District Director are working daily to build and develop emergency planning and support systems, relationships with area emergency personnel, CVMC, area schools, towns and businesses, Washington Cty. Mental Health, Day Care Facilities, Nursing Homes, Schools & Colleges, Central Vermont United Way & their sixty (60) member agencies, The American Red Cross – Central VT. Chapter, Central VT. Home Health & Hospice, the AHS Field Services Manager & our AHS sister departments. Our goal is to help build, actively participate in and support the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC #5) for Central Vermont. Participate in planning for possible terrorist events, and Pandemic Flu preparation as well as natural disasters (floods, wind storms, ice & snow storms etc.). This includes community partners from all areas of expertise – from medical staff to rental businesses and including the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission – all to support our area response in the event of an emergency that could have major public health consequences. Our work has also included developing a behavioral health component to emergency prep with the State Employees Assistance Program and Washington County Mental Health.**

***Children with Special Health Needs – This program addresses the very specific needs of children and their families related to chronic disabilities and significant birth defects. Located in the VDH Barre DO, this centrally administered program provides direct services to families relating to special medical needs, nursing services, social work and coordination of care. The local CSHN’s team, Jeannine Hebert (Pediatric Orthopedic Nurse) & Mardie Noles (Medical Social Worker – MSW) work closely with the Child Development Clinic Staff, the Family, Infant Toddler program, Family Services (SRS), and area schools to coordinate plans to meet the child’s specific medical, educational, and social needs.**

***VDH – ADAP / Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs – Sarah Munro - VDH Barre area ADAP Prevention Consultant comprehensively addresses the local outreach, collaboration, education & prevention activities through her leadership with local projects such as the Partners for Prevention and the Central Vermont Compassionate Community Collaborative and the local prevention collaboratives (5) Five in Central Vermont, located in Montpelier, Barre, Cabot, Northfield, & Williamstown.**

***Food & Lodging / Restaurant Safety Inspections – Taylor Gillich (Sanitarian) – based out of the VDH Barre DO is the regional Inspector. Investigation of health issues related to the food service industry, restaurant safety inspections. On-going site investigations and inspections. The VDH web site has scores from the last round of facility inspections.**

***The Vermont Quit Line – a toll free phone line that will be answered by a counselor that will support the planning of and the on-going issues related to quitting smoking 1-877-YES-QUIT. Administered via the VDH Central Office**

Smoking Program. Locally, we've begun looking into the development of a Central Vermont Tobacco Coalition – if one does not already exist, we will begin to look at coordinating efforts across the area. Local, VDH funded programs include New Directions Projects in Montpelier, Barre and Cabot.

***Lead testing and monitoring – this program is part of the WIC intake process. Children are tested (by finger prick) to determine their blood lead levels. This helps VDH outreach to those who's children's blood levels are elevated and make referrals to a physician for follow-up treatment and monitoring. Nancy Kapusta – Barre VDH HOS manages this program.**

*** SUDI / SIDS & Infant Death Program – parent support, family support & bereavement support referral services. Barre District Office Staff, upon notification of a SUDI / SIDS death from CVMC, Gifford Hospital, Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice or another source can provide outreach materials and phone support to parents. Additionally, referrals can be made to other support services related to the needs of parent or families regarding lactation consultation, bereavement support, infant loss support group meetings, or individual counseling. The Barre District Office Designee is Dell McDonough.**

***Additional VDH Program's administered centrally:**

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| - Refugee Health | - Health Alert Network |
| - Oral Health Services | - Diabetes Control Program |
| - FITP Program | - Minority Health Office |
| - Rural Health / Primary Care | - Tobacco Control Program |
| - Asbestos & Lead Reg. Prog. | - Asthma Program |
| - Chief Medical Examiner | - EMS |
| - Envision Program | - Radon Program |
| - Safe Drinking Water | - Arthritis Program |
| - Public Health Lab | - Behavioral Risk Factor
Surveillance System (BRFSS) |
| - Vital Records | - Vital Statistics |
| - Division of Mental Health | - West Nile Virus / Encephalitis
Program |
| - Fit & Healthy Kids Initiative | - Blue Print for Health –
Chronic Care Initiative |

Questions for Partner & Community Input

- 1. Are there any programs / initiatives where you feel VDH could be more involved or help to develop?**

- 2. Are there gaps in services where VDH could focus attention over the next year?**

- 3. Do you have any comments or questions you would like to pass on to VDH regarding our practice or involvement in the community?**

Please send your comments to:

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