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Cynthia D. LaWare, Secretary

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Agency Leadership, Management and Field Staff:

Over the past two years, the Agency has partnered with statewide domestic violence groups to help us improve the AHS response to domestic violence and institutionalize domestic violence expertise throughout the Agency. Last year, the Agency supported the development of an internal Domestic Violence Task Force that met throughout the year to discuss strategies to achieve this goal. These meetings culminated in the “Report on Domestic Violence Policy and Practice at the Vermont Agency of Human Services: Recommendations for Systems Change”.

As Secretary, I strongly endorsed the recommendations contained in the report, and I am committed to continuing the work that was initiated by the task force. I am particularly excited about the possibilities for action that I see contained in the report.

Successful implementation of the recommendations hinges on the ongoing support of the Agency through our leadership team, our Commissioners, Deputies and Managers. I am asking each department to actively support and engage in implementation of effective domestic violence policy and practice within AHS. Further, it is important to provide effective, client-based social services to help alleviate and end domestic violence in Vermont.

I would like to thank Agency staffs for their active participation on the task force and for providing leadership to this very important issue. We look forward to continuing to improve the statewide response to domestic violence in Vermont.

Thank you in advance for your support of this project.

Sincerely,

Cynthia D. LaWare, Secretary
Agency of Human Services