

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION OF STATE AGENCY

Function of the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is addressed in Attachment 1.2-B. The Department for Children and Families (DCF) is one of the major components of the Agency of Human Services (AHS). Within the DCF, the Economic Services Division (ESD) encompasses the functions regarding Medicaid eligibility. The DCF's principal functions and structure are outlined below:

Child Development Division (CDD)

CDD's goal is to increase accessibility to high-quality child care and child development services by working with programs within communities to coordinate and deliver services that meet families' needs. Direct services for children and families include regulating early childhood and afterschool programs; early intervention services; information, resource and referral for families; parent education and family support services. CDD provides technical assistance, professional development, and mentoring opportunities to Vermont's early childhood and afterschool workforce, and are involved in developing early childhood and afterschool systems in Vermont.

Disability Determination Services (DDS)

DDS determines the eligibility of Vermonters who apply for disability benefits under Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI); and determines the medical eligibility of Vermonters who apply for Medicaid based on having a disability.

Economic Services Division (ESD)

ESD's mission is to help Vermonters find a path to a better life. ESD administers programs which include assistance-to-work; supplemental nutrition assistance; fuel assistance; and health care.

Family Services Division (FSD)

FSD's mission is to protect children and strengthen families in partnership with families and communities. FSD services include child abuse/neglect intake, investigation and assessment; ongoing services to families at risk; care, treatment and permanency planning of children in state custody; probation and other restorative justice services for delinquent youth; post adoption supports and subsidy for children adopted through foster care; transition services for youth; and the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility.

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Office of Child Support (OCS)

OCS is responsible for establishing, collecting upon, enforcing, and modifying support orders for children who do not live with both parents, is responsible for helping Vermonters establish parentage; establish an order for child and medical support; modify or enforce an existing order for child and medical support; make support payments to the custodial parent; and locate a missing non-custodial parent.

Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

OEO's mission is to increase the self-sufficiency of Vermonters, strengthen Vermont communities, and eliminate the causes and symptoms of poverty. OEO manages programs and grants; identifies and develops resources; provides training and technical assistance; advocates for community-based organizations, and connects communities to resources within government and the private sector.

Within the Agency of Human Services, the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) assists older persons, children and adults with disabilities to live as independently as possible. The DAIL's principal functions and structure are as follows:

Division for the Blind & Visually Impaired (DBVI)

DBVI is the designated state division to provide vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to eligible Vermonters who are blind and visually impaired. DBVI's mission is to support the efforts of Vermonters who are blind and visually impaired to achieve or sustain their economic independence, self reliance, and social integration to a level consistent with their interests, abilities and informed choices.

Division of Disability & Aging Services (DDAS)

DDAS supports older Vermonters and Vermonters with disabilities to live as they choose, pursuing their individual goals and preferences within their chosen communities. DDAS seeks to ensure their basic human and civil rights, health, well-being, and safety. DDAS provides effective leadership for disability and aging policy and services in Vermont. DDAS meets federal state mandates by developing and managing public resources effectively. DDAS is also responsible for all community-based long-term care services for older Vermonters, people with developmental disabilities, people with traumatic brain injuries and people with physical disabilities.

Division of Licensing & Protection (DLP)

DLP enforces federal and state statutes and regulations for providers of health care and investigates cases of alleged abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VocRehab)

VocRehab is responsible for helping Vermonters with disabilities prepare for and find employment.

The Department of Health is the largest component of the Agency of Human Services. Within the Department, the responsibilities of each division are outlined below:

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs Division (ADAP)

ADAP is responsible for helping Vermonters prevent and eliminate the problems caused by alcohol and other drug use. In partnership with other public and private organizations, ADAP plans, supports and evaluates a comprehensive system that provides education, prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, and research services.

Board of Medical Practice (BMP)

The BMP is responsible for licensing physicians and podiatrists and certifying physician assistants and anesthesiologist assistants. The BMP investigates complaints and charges of unprofessional conduct against any holder of a license or certificate within its jurisdiction, and determines whether the charges are substantiated or not.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP)

HPDP promotes health screenings and provides public health promotion and education. All services directed at helping Vermonters adopt healthy behaviors, nutrition and lifestyles to prevent chronic diseases and injuries. HPDP offices and programs include Tobacco Control, Nutrition & Physical Activity, Oral Health, Diabetes, Ladies First, and Cancer Control & Prevention. Each works in close coordination with the Vermont Blueprint for Health, partner organizations, and communities.

Health Surveillance (HS)

HS investigates and monitors reportable diseases. Identifies disease causing agents, and offers testing and follow-up services to prevent the spread of disease. HS develops approaches for prevention, intervention, and early detection and treatment of cancer and other leading causes of death. HS conducts epidemiological studies including monitoring, surveillance and control of chronic diseases and disabling conditions, and collects and analyzes data to determine the health status, morbidity, and mortality of Vermont's population.

Office of Local Health (OLH)

OLH is responsible for providing essential health promotion and disease prevention services to Vermonters through its 12 district offices. Central and district office staff work in partnership with local health care providers, voluntary agencies, schools, businesses and community organizations.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

As part of OLH, the focus of MCH is to promote the wellness of Vermont's mothers, children and their families. MCH administers programs such as WIC, and coordinates with state and local programs for clinical and community based MCH services. MCH manages services for children with special health needs, coordinates school health services, promotes injury prevention, supports immunization delivery clinical systems, and works to enhance oral health community-based clinical delivery systems. In addition, MCH coordinates pediatric services with Vermont's Blueprint for Health, and promotes wellness services. MCH actions are driven by state and local indicators and evidence based public health programs.

Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP)

OPHP is the development and management body charged with coordinating preparedness and response activities and funding within the Vermont Department of Health. OPHP and its partners manage emergency public health and medical preparedness and response systems at the local, state, interstate and international levels. OPHP is also responsible for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) related regulation and system development, and actively works with other government agencies, communities, hospitals, health care providers and first responders to prepared for and respond to an array of public health and "all-hazard" emergencies including pandemic influenza, extreme weather events, and releases of biological, chemical or radiological agents.

The Department of Corrections (DOC), in partnership with the community, supports safe communities by providing leadership in crime prevention, repairing the harm done, addressing the needs of crime victims, ensuring offender accountability for criminal acts, and managing the risk posed by offenders. Within the DOC, responsibilities of each division are outlined below:

Administration

Responsible for central oversight and management of all divisions.

Facilities

Responsible for maintaining and operating nine incarcerative facilities and seventeen community-based facilities.

Program Services

Responsible for a variety of services to the community, the criminal justice system, and offenders. The services provided directly to the community focus on education/ information, victims, and reparative support. The services provided to the criminal justice system includes housing and supervision of offenders, sentencing options/reports, and intelligence information. Treatment programs are designed to meet the needs of sex offenders, violent offenders, substance use, and domestic violence issues.

Restorative and Community Justice

Responsible for involving victims and the community as central elements in a process whereby the focus is on the offender being as held accountable to the victim and community.

Placement Services

Responsible for providing offenders with assistance re-integrating into the community after a period of incarceration.

Field Services

Responsible for the ongoing supervision of offenders in the community and ensuring that offenders under supervision are in compliance with all applicable requirements and conditions of release.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) promotes and improves the mental health of Vermonters. DMH focus on its vision for self-determination, empowerment and recovery.

Adult Mental Health Services Division

Adult Mental Health Services offers or assures access to mental health services through designated agencies in communities all over the state including; community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT): for adults with diagnoses of severe and persistent mental illness (for example, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, and others). They also provide Adult Outpatient services: for adults who do not have diagnoses of major mental illnesses but who nevertheless are experiencing serious emotional or behavioral problems that disrupt their lives. Emergency Services are provided for anyone of any age experiencing a mental-health crisis.

Child, Adolescent & Family Mental Health Services

The Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health treatment system is organized around five core capacity services that are available separately or in combination for a youth and their family, depending on their desires and needs. The five services offered are:

- Immediate Response: for children and adolescents experiencing a mental health crisis and their families.
- Clinic-Based Treatment: services that are provided within a clinic and are available during daytime and evening hours for school-age children and/or when families can easily access them.
- Outreach Treatment: services that are available in the home, school, and general community settings.
- Family Support: for parents and caregivers to help with guidance, support, and skill to cope with a difficult-to-care-for child. These services are offered in partnership with parents and consumer advocates.
- Prevention, Screening, Referral and Community Consultation: prevention efforts focus on promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy communities for all youth and families.

Vermont State Hospital (VSH)

The Vermont Legislature established the state run hospital, VSH, in 1891 to serve the emergency examination needs of mentally ill Vermonters unable to receive treatment and care in other settings. The VSH serves adults with serious and persistent mental illness as part of a comprehensive continuum of care. VSH also serves as a forensic examination facility for individuals who cannot be appropriately evaluated in an alternative, secure setting.

The Office of the Secretary of the Agency of Human Services (AHS) oversees several functions of the AHS under the direction of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary:

Fiscal Operations Unit

The Fiscal Operations Unit manages development, implementation and monitoring of the AHS budget to ensure that departmental programs reflect the Governor's priorities and are in compliance with legislative requirements. Specifically, the unit develops financial status reports and monitors key program performance indicators for each AHS department and office; coordinates all federal block grants and statewide single audit functions; develops the AHS indirect rate; updates federal cost allocation plans; updates the Vermont Human Services State plan and through the Rate Setting Unit, audits and establishes Medicaid payment rates for nursing facilities for DVHA, intermediate care facilities for people with developmental disabilities for DAIL and private non-medical institutions for DCF.

Health Care Operations, Compliance and Improvement

The AHS Health Care Operations, Compliance and Improvement Unit oversees activities pertaining to Medicaid and associated health care operations. It is responsible for integrated planning, policy development, regulatory compliance and funding. These initiatives require cross-departmental (and intra-governmental) operations for successful implementation and outcomes. Activities include but are not limited to: federal negotiations relative to changes in the AHS Medicaid structure; oversight of the DVHA and AHS operations of the Vermont Global Commitment to Health Medicaid Waiver; quality assurance, improvement and performance measurement of program activities; providing technical assistance to departments; overseeing AHS Consumer Information and Privacy Standards; and Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements.

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Commission on National & Community Services

The commission administers funding to the state's AmeriCorps National service programs and promotes, supports, and recognizes volunteerism and community service throughout Vermont. The commission consists of 15 Governor appointed citizens supported by a staff of four housed in the Secretary's Office in the AHS.

Human Services Board (HSB)

The HSB is a citizen's panel consisting of seven members and was created by the Vermont legislature. Its duties are to act as a fair hearing board for appeals brought by individuals who are aggrieved by decisions or policies of the various departments and programs within the AHS.

Information Technology Unit (IT)

The AHS IT is responsible for developing and maintaining the information technology applications and systems necessary to support the mission of the AHS.

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (VTDDC)

The VTDDC is a state-wide board that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Field Services Division (FSD)

The FSD's scope covers the entire AHS, including services provided by private, designated and contracted organizations. Seven AHS Field Directors have been established to unify human services operations at the local level. The goal is to build a local system focused on excellent customer service, the holistic needs of individuals and families, strength-based relationships, and improving results for Vermonters statewide.

Refugee Resettlement

Refugee Resettlement coordinates private and public resources for refugee resettlement and delivery of services to refugees. The Refugee Coordinator implements the State Plan for Refugee Resettlement, oversees federal grants for refugee services, including refugee medical assistance, refugee social services and refugee children school impact grants. The Refugee Coordinator works across all Departments and Agencies and with national, local and community partners to increase collaboration, foster the sharing of information, and maximize resources for the resettlement and successful integration of refugees into Vermont. The Coordinator chairs the Refugee & Immigrant Service Providers Networks (RISPNet) of Chittenden and Washington counties and the AHS Limited English Proficiency Committee.

Tobacco Evaluation & Review Board

The Legislature established the Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board effective July 1, 2000 as an independent state board. It is located within, and receives administrative support from the Office of the Secretary of the AHS. The Board works in partnership with the AHS and the Department of Health and Education in establishing the annual budget, program criteria, and policy development, review and evaluation of the entire tobacco control program.

Rate Setting

The Rate Setting Unit was established in 1978 as an independent unit of the Agency of Human Services. The Unit provides the Agency and its departments with special financial, accounting, auditing, and related legal expertise, particularly relating to payments to Medicaid providers.