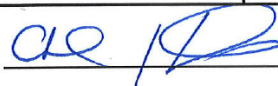


STATE OF VERMONT
Agency of Human Services (AHS)

Title: Public Comments	REVISION HISTORY:	Chapter/Number
	EFFECTIVE DATE:	Attachments/Related Documents:
Authorizing Signature: 		Date Signed: <u>11/20/18</u>
Name/Title: <u>Al Gobeille, AHS Secretary</u>		

POLICY STATEMENT:

PURPOSE / POLICY STATEMENT:

To establish general expectations for AHS employees regarding making comments in a public forum on AHS related policies, rules, programs, initiatives, and other topics of interest. AHS staff are not authorized to provide public comment using their position title or claim to represent the Agency's official position.

State employees have the right to comment as private citizens. Only employees with explicit prior approval from the Agency Secretary or Departments' Commissioners or their delegate have the authority to speak **on behalf** of the State or Agency. Employees who are not so designated must make clear that comments represent their own personal views and opinions, not those of State officials or AHS.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all employees and positions in the Agency of Human Services and all its departments and offices.

REFERENCES:

Employees must be in compliance with personnel policies 5.6-Employee Conduct and 11.7-Electronic Communications and Internet Use.