

Yearly Updates 2022 to 2023

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Agency of Human Services (AHS) Accessibility Committee

- Accessibility maps (still work in progress)

Agency of Education (AOE)

- Met monthly with AOE on how to improve Request for Proposal (RFP) process for upcoming school years.
- Provide ongoing support for School Age Subcommittee of DHHDB Advisory Council.
- Consult monthly with new POC (Cassie Santo) on regular basis.
- Participate in scoring committee for RFP.

Agency of Natural Resources (ANR)

- Collaborate on future work for better accessibility across all three Divisions.
- Provide technical assistance with their Language Access Plan.
- Addressed Green Mountain Passport need to be updated.

DAIL: Adult Services Division (ASD)

- Sent out survey on Communication Kits idea; received 12 responses.
- Collaborate on Enhanced FMAP funding: Alternative Housing.

DAIL: Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDSD)

- Met with parents bi-weekly to gather information to support Steering Committee on better alternative housing.
 - Expanded group to designated agencies to find better collaboration to housing.
 - Attend VT School Safety Crisis Planning meetings to contribute ideas.

DAIL: Division of Blind and Visual Impaired (DBVI)

- Worked on developing the SSP pilot program (5.27.2022) and initiated during first week of December with Vancro.
 - A two-year grant statewide providing SSP services for signers and non-signers who have dual sensory loss (hearing and vision).

Department of Children and Family (DCF)

- Provide ongoing technical assistance to developing their “Effective Communication” Policy for DHHDB children/adults.

Department of Health (DOH)

- Continued to create COVID and healthcare related ASL videos via Vermont Language Justice Project.
- Created guidelines for best practices at COVID sites.
- Provided DHHDB Covid Clinic in January 2022.
- Created Healthcare Policy Template for hospitals and healthcare facilities via VAHHS (still work in progress 12/20/2022).

Department of Labor (DOL)

- Participated in a language access meeting.
- Educated on various telecommunication methods.
- Initiated workgroup to create interpreting internships and/or apprenticeships.
12.20.2022
 - Just approved for recruitment manager/paid internships (notified April 20, 2023) starting in August of 2023.

Department of Mental Health (DMH/DVHA/DAIL/VDH)

- Hosted two meetings to discuss strategies on how to improve mental health services.
- Created survey to send out to providers, received 6 responses.
- Provided an all-day presentation with NFI (over 154 attendees).

Hearing Induction Loop System

- Department of Tourism
 - Survey sent out; received 56 responses (12/19/2022)
 - Research on funding for hearing induction loop systems
 - Future Presentation will take place in the fall.
- DAIL
 - Wrote a proposal for BGS for one conference room at WSOC (still waiting on response 12/14/2022)

Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV)

- Provide technical assistance on improving interpreting services (both spoken and sign language) at all field offices.

Language Access

- Added amendment to current state contract with Vancro to increase interpreting rates.
- Met with the Agency of Administration (AOA) and external community partners for Language Access Summit on improving language access statewide. (2 times – April and August). Waiting on AOA’s proposal to submit to governor’s office.

Vermont Department of Taxes

- Met monthly to provide technical assistance on improving communication access with taxes.
- Connect to provide co-presentation for tax preparers all over New England.

Vermont State House

- Worked with the Office of Legislative Operations to provide options for enhancing communication access at the State House.

Presentations/Panels/Conferences

- OTC hearing aids (3X – HireAbility, VT HLAA and DAIL management team)
- OTC hearing aids informational interview (10.26.2022)
- Informational Interview on HA Bill (7.5.2022)
- Washington County Schools (ASL students) on potential careers post-secondary
- Howard Center crisis team 11.17.22
- Care Transition Leaderships 6.15.2022 (VPQHC)
- WCMHS 6.28.2022
- NFI conference 3.30.2023
- Upcoming presentations (Series of 3 workshops for those in Developmental Disabilities services)