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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **DAIL Receives \$1M Grant for Restorative Justice Program Pilot**

WATERBURY, VT – The Adult Protective Services unit (APS) within the Division of Licensing and Protection, of the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living has been awarded a three year, one million dollar grant by the [Administration for Community Living](#) to create, coordinate, and maintain a Restorative Justice Program to serve both victims and perpetrators of vulnerable adult maltreatment – defined in [Vermont statute](#) as abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The program will provide meaningful, strength-based, participant driven responses to vulnerable adult maltreatment in Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties through the grant term, with hopes of expanding statewide.

It is estimated that in the U.S., approximately 9.5% of adults age 60 or older experience some form of elder mistreatment each year. Elder mistreatment is expected to nearly double over the next three decades in proportion with older adult population growth, absent development of new prevention strategies. APS is the State agency statutorily tasked with investigating allegations of vulnerable adult maltreatment in Vermont. Implementation of a Restorative Justice model aligns with the statutory responsibility of Vermont APS to protect vulnerable adults whose health or welfare may be adversely affected through abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Restorative Justice is a philosophy that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by maltreatment. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that allow all willing stakeholders to meet. This can lead to transformation of people, relationships and communities. The Restorative Justice model is rooted in the recognition of the value and importance of a victim’s self-determination and self-direction.

The Vermont Adult Protective Services Restorative Justice pilot program will seek to draw on a victim’s identified strengths, culturally established beliefs, goals, wishes and expectations to create a plan to repair the harm, and attempt to make the victim “whole”. It will also provide additional options for harm reduction, service delivery, reparation and restitution, rather than solely relying on a perpetrator’s placement on the Vermont Adult Abuse Registry. The Restorative Justice pilot program seeks to show a decrease in recidivism among perpetrators, a reduction in re-victimization, and increased data collection in order to expand Vermont’s participation in national data reporting efforts. Another important aim of this Restorative Justice



pilot program is that victims and perpetrators of maltreatment will feel satisfied that the harm has been fairly addressed and appropriate reparations have been made upon successful completion of the program.

The \$1M grant award funds two dedicated case managers within APS for a three-year period, responsible for implementation and operation of this Restorative Justice pilot program.

Learn more about Adult Protective Services at: <https://dlp.vermont.gov/aps>

***About the Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living (DAIL):***

*Our mission is to make Vermont the best state in which to grow old or to live with a disability - with dignity, respect and independence.*

<https://www.facebook.com/DAILVT/>

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