

# Yearly Updates 2023 to 2024

Created by Laura Siegel

Director of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind Services  
Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living  
[Laura.Siegel@vermont.gov](mailto:Laura.Siegel@vermont.gov)



#### Agency of Human Services (AHS) Accessibility Committee

- Collaborated to create open office hours to educate state agencies on how to create accessible context.
- Provided feedback for my own intranet page covering the type of work I do and how I can help other agencies or departments.

#### Agency of Education (AOE)

- Provide ongoing support for School Age Subcommittee of DHHDB Advisory Council.
  - Will work on creating a guide for AOE starting in January 2024.
- Consult monthly with POC (Cassie Santo) on regular basis- continued.
- Participate in scoring committee for RFP continued.

#### Agency of Natural Resources (ANR)

- Collaborate to ensure that their services expand to individuals with dual sensory losses (vision and hearing).
- In process of planning a summer series (June, July, August) with DWF. July 13<sup>th</sup> will co-join with CorpsThat. Will plan to do the same with different curriculum for July 2025.

#### DAIL: Adult Services Division (ASD)

- Participated in reviewing RFPs for alternative housing.
- Provided technical assistance on incorporating DHHDB context to their Vermont Strong Plan.
- Will create a Communication Action Plan for the MFTP to aid discharge nurses/case managers.

#### DAIL: Division of Blind and Visual Impaired (DBVI)

- Provide technical assistance to Vancro to increase consumers' on their SSP pilot program statewide. Went from serving 3 to 31.
- Will be a stakeholder for their Pathway to partnership grant. UVMMC ESP and Vancro will be involved.

#### Department of Children and Family (DCF)

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

## Enhanced 911

- Create cheat sheet for dispatchers.
- Provide training.
- Add on more features to current software.

## Department of Labor (DOL)/Department of Taxes

- Continuously meeting monthly.
- Provide ongoing technical assistance.
- Provided presentations to their call centers.
- Educated on various telecommunication methods.
- Paid internships through Vancro started in August 2023 and will continue to May 2024. Three paid internship (40 hours monthly) total.

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

- Worked with DAIL Deputy Commissioner to create problem statement for legislative.
- Created second survey and sent out thru NASW. Received over 20+ responses..
- Provided a co-presentation at NASW annual conference at the Hilton in November 2023.
- Will provide another co-presentation at NFI conference in May next year.

## Hearing Induction Loop System

- No updates on this front.

## Additional Presentations/Panels/Conferences

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ▪ UVM Health Equity Summit (10.30.2023)                  | ▪ VT Bar Association (2.13.2024)      |
| ▪ Upcoming Interview with Orca Media's Abled and On Air. | ▪ C&M (4.4.2024)                      |
| ▪ NFI conference 3.30.2023                               | ▪ Taxes NATP, Dispatcher (TBD)        |
| ▪ DOL Call Center 10.13.2023                             | ▪ Annual VOTA presentation (4.6.2024) |
| ▪ NASW conference 11.2.2023                              | ▪ Tourism (TBD)                       |