



DAIL Testimony to Sunset Advisory Commission

Board and Commission Review

September 11, 2019

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Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) State Program Standing Committee

- 1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.**

The DDS State Program Standing Committee meets monthly, with the exception of one month in which they may not meet. (Usually 11 months/year) The meeting agendas and meeting minutes can be found on the DDS website at: [DS State Program Standing Committee - Agendas, Notes, and Information | Developmental Disabilities Services Division](#)

- 2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.**

Members of the DDS State Program Standing Committee are appointed by the Governor. The terms for the committee member appointments are for three years; if a seat is filled mid-term, the member is only appointed for the remaining time until the appointment expires, and a new appointment is necessary. The list of Committee members and their term expiration dates are listed on the Governor's website at:

https://governor.vermont.gov/boards_and_commissions/developmental_services

<u>Board Member Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
David Ballou	3/31/2019
Anne Bakeman	3/31/2021
Maxwell Barrows	3/31/2019
Joy Redington	3/31/2021
Rachel Colby	3/31/2021
Ellen Malone	3/31/2020
Bethany Drum	3/31/2019
Linda Ujlaky	3/31/2021
William Ashe	3/31/2021
Mark Utter	3/31/2019
Edwin Place	3/31/2020
Barbara Prine	3/31/2020
Lisa Maynes	3/31/2020
Connie Woodberry	3/31/2019
Susan Yuan	3/31/2021

The DDS State Program Standing Committee members may request a \$50.00 per diem per meeting, if they are not compensated by other means or are attending as part of their workday. (Example: A designated agency staff person would not be paid the per diem as they are attending as agency staff as part of their work and are being paid by the agency to be at the meeting.)

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission’s purpose.

The purpose of the DDS State Program Standing Committee is to provide advice to the department regarding the operation of the Developmental Disabilities Services program. The members provide advice on policies, regulations and the System of Care for people with developmental disabilities. They advise the Commissioner on the designation of provider agencies.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

The Committee is required by state statute. Without this committee, which includes key stakeholders in the system, the state would be missing a key source of accountability in how it runs its program.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The Committee meets 11 times a year and provides robust input into the operation of the Developmental Disabilities Services System. The members attend regularly and are very engaged. Minutes from meetings would be evidence of the level of engagement.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

No. Regular meetings are needed to remain current, especially now as there are significant system change efforts going on.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission’s functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

At times there is overlap with the DAIL Advisory Board as DDSD is a division of DAIL. Sometimes information sharing and input are sought from both bodies on the same topic; however, this is necessary when seeking input about issues or initiatives that impact the broad population served by DAIL. The DDS State Program Standing Committee does delve more deeply into the specifics of DS than the DAIL Advisory Board and this is appropriate.

8. Does the board or commission’s enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes

9. Provide a list of the board and commission’s last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

DS Director	\$ 2,450.25
DS Policy Analyst	\$ 740.88
DS Admin Support	\$ 4,291.87
Total Staff Costs	\$ 7,483.00

Per diem	\$ 4,580.58
Catering/Meals Cost	\$ 478.40
Mileage Reimbursement	
Non-employee	\$ 3,289.11
Total Non-staff Costs	\$ 8,348.09

TOTAL COSTS	\$ 15,831.09
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Staff time costs based on estimated hours per state employee.

Funding Source = Medicaid Admin

Fund split 46% GF 54% Federal.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

No.

11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?

Very good. They provide very helpful guidance to the Division in the operation of our program.

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Commission

- 1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.**

The ADRD Commission meets every other month for a total of six times per year. Over the past two fiscal years, the Commission has met twelve times.

Information about the ADRD Commission, including a list of members and recent meeting minutes, is posted on the Adult Services Division website here:

<https://asd.vermont.gov/governors-commission-adrd>.

- 2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.**

Per [Title 3 V.S.A. § 3085b](#), the Commission shall be composed of 20 members: the Commissioners of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and of Health or designees, one Senator chosen by the Senate Committee on Committees, one Representative chosen by the Speaker of the House, and 16 members appointed by the Governor. The members appointed by the Governor shall represent the following groups and organizations: physicians, social workers, nursing home managers, including the administrators of the Vermont Veterans' Home, the clergy, adult day center providers, the business community, registered nurses, residential care home operators, family care providers, the home health agency, the legal profession, mental health service providers, the area agencies on aging, University of Vermont's Center on Aging, the Support and Services at Home (SASH) program, and the Alzheimer's Association. The members appointed by the Governor shall represent, to the degree possible, the five regions of the State.

Eight of the members appointed by the Governor shall serve terms of two years and eight of the members shall serve terms of three years. Members shall serve until their successors are appointed. Members may serve more than one term.

For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, legislative members of the Commission shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than four meetings. Members of the Commission who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to compensation and expenses as provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than four meetings per year. Payment to the members shall be from the appropriation to the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living.

Representing	Last name	first name	City	term start date	term ending date	Re-appointment
Mental health provider	Seeking Applications					
Physician	Messerli	Alexandra	Williston	11/1/2018	11/1/2020	
Legal profession	Jarrett	Glenn	Burlington	10/7/2014	4/21/2019	Submitted
Family Caregiver	Johnson	Paula	St Albans	11/1/2018	11/1/2020	
Clergy	Kelley	Pastor Jeff	Barre	11/1/2018	11/1/2020	
Alzheimer's Association	Gilbert-Davis	Grace	Arlington	12/1/2018	12/1/2020	
UVM Center on Aging	Nunziata	Janet	Burlington	12/1/2016	3/14/2020	
Home Health/VNA	Seeking Applications					
SASH	Dugan	Molly	Richmond	11/21/2017	4/21/2020	
Business community	Seeking Applications					
Social Worker	Seeking Applications					
AAA	Boutwell	Mark	Hartland	11/21/2017	4/21/2020	
Res Care	Seeking Applications					
Nurses	Basha	Mohamed	South Burlington	11/21/2017	4/21/2019	Submitted
Adult Day	Stauffeneker	Andrea	West Burke	3/9/2018	3/9/2020	
Nursing Home Admin	Dimario	Alecia	Milton	4/15/2018	4/21/2020	
State House	Brock	Randy				
State Leg.	Noyes	Dan				
VDH	Williams	Rhonda				
DAIL	Smith-Dieng	Angela				

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

The Vermont Legislature established the [Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders](#) (ARD) in 1991. Since its inception, the Commission has provided leadership on a number of public policy matters specific to the needs and concerns of people affected by ARD.

The Commission's mission is to identify key public policy issues related to ARD, to educate the public and private sectors regarding these matters and to make policy

recommendations in support of developing programs and services essential to providing accessible and appropriate services to people with dementia illnesses and to their families and other care partners.

The key functions of the Alzheimer's Commission are to:

- 1) Evaluate the adequacy of existing services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related disorders and their families, and conduct studies to identify gaps in these services. These studies may include access to mental health-related services and support for services to families of individuals with Alzheimer's disease.
- 2) Identify strategies and recommend resources to expand existing services.
- 3) Review or participate in the development of laws, rules, and other governmental initiatives which may affect individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related disorders, and their families. This may include participation in the development of rules, and procedures related to 1996 Acts and Resolves No. 160, Medicare and Medicaid, nursing and residential care facilities, adult day centers, special care units, and all community-based services to elders.
- 4) Provide advice regarding revisions, coordination of services, accountability, and appropriations.
- 5) Support the development of expanded community recognition, understanding, and capacity to meet the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and dementia-related disorders. This may include development of new technologies to improve access to information for caregivers and practitioners who provide services throughout the State and identification of new models of service and activities related to expansion of community access to information, education, and service.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

Yes, the purpose is still very relevant today. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in Vermont, and the number of people with Alzheimer's in 2018 (13,000) is expected to increase by 30% (to about 17,000) by 2025. The Commission plays an important role in calling attention to the impact of this disease on Vermonters and their families. Convening partners to address the issue through programs and supports and making key recommendations to policymakers.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The Commission continues to execute that purpose each year. Below are a few recent examples:

- The Commission provided recommendations for revised regulations of residential care homes related to dementia training and care. Recommendations were crafted through comprehensive process of member and stakeholder engagement.
- The Commission identified "Dementia Friendly Communities" as a nationally recognized approach to serving individuals with dementia and their families, caregivers and

communities through a comprehensive effort across all sectors of a community. The Commission has begun the work to make Vermont a “dementia friendly state.”

- The Commission has also acted as an important voice and resource for Vermonters and families. For example, a family caregiver contacted the Commission to share a negative experience of their loved one living with dementia with a long-term care facility; the Commission was able to use this experience to further inform members and stakeholders as well as respond to the individual to validate that experience and share actions to be taken.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

There is no other entity in Vermont state government that focuses on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders in a comprehensive way with such a diverse group of stakeholders at the table. The Commission brings together experts in the field next to people with life experience who meet together on a regular basis. To try to accomplish the mission without this group would be extremely difficult. As an example, the Dementia Friendly Communities initiative requires an advisory body; without the ADRD Commission in place, we would have to create a separate body to act in that role.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission’s functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

There is minimal overlap with the DAIL Advisory Board in that this body provides broad input on the services and issues facing older Vermonters and Vermonters with disabilities. However, the DAIL Advisory Board does not have the capacity to delve as deeply into the service, needs, issues and initiatives around ADRD. The purpose of the ADRD Commission is unique in the state of Vermont.

8. Does the board or commission’s enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission’s last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

ASD Program Admin Staff	\$2,026.08
Other	0.00
Total Staff Costs	<u>\$2,026.08</u>
Per diem	0.00
Catering/Meals Cost	0.00
Mileage Reimbursement	
non-employee	0.00
Total Non-staff Costs	<u>0.00</u>

TOTAL COSTS	\$ 2,026.08
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Staff time costs based on estimated hours per state employee.

Funding Source = Title III-E

Fund split 25% GF 75% Federal.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

Yes. Annually, on or before January 15, the Commission submits a written report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?

Average Attendance: 83%

Active participation in subgroups: 39%

As an example of positive performance and results, the recommendations submitted to revise the residential care home regulations are being seriously considered by the department in the revision process. Commission members have been interviewed by the contractor and looks forward to submitting public comment on the draft regulations.

Vermont Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind (D/HH/DB) Advisory Council

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.

The D/HH/DB Advisory Council meets between 6-8 times per year. Over the last two years, it has been closer to 6 times per year with subgroups from the Council meeting outside of the regular meeting schedule. Agendas and minutes are posted on the Vermont Department of Health website and can be found at this link:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/family/health-care/hearing-health>

2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.

Alan Gifford	Deaf Community Member	Appointed
Deb Charlea Baker	Hard of Hearing Community Member	Appointed
Sharon Henry	Parent	Appointed
Keri Darling ,Vice Chair	Deaf Community Member	Appointed
Susan Kimmerly	9 East Network	Appointed
Spenser Weppler, Chair	Hard of Hearing Community Member	Appointed
Amelia Briggs	Community Member Parent Deaf Blind Child	Appointed
Monica Hutt	AHS Designee	By Statute
AJ Van Tassel	Hard of Hearing Community Member	Appointed
Bill Hudson	Voc Rehab	By Statute
Ralph Gallo	Deaf Community Member	Appointed
Sherry Sousa	Special Educator	By Statute
Tracy Harris	AOE Designee	By Statute
Danielle Howes	CIS	By Statute
Laura Siegel	Vermont Association of the Deaf	By Statute
Amy Williamson	Interpreter, Parent/Family	Appointed
Linda Hazard	VTEHDI	By Statute
William Pendlebury	DeafBlind Community Member	Appointed
Julie Stefanski	Audiologist	Appointed
Rebecca Chalmers	Parent	Appointed
Brigid Nease	Superintendent	By Statute

Only members who are not professionals or paid to attend receive a standard per diem stipend and transportation reimbursement.

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

The Council was created by Act 107 of 2016 to “promote diversity, equality, awareness and access among individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind”. The vision statement reads as follows: “As a state council, we strive to enhance collaboration by creating support, cooperation, and understanding to achieve fairness and equity for all Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind Vermonters.” Ultimately, the role of the Council is to give a voice to those populations and work to knit together a system of services and supports across multiple Agencies and Departments.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

Yes, it is absolutely a needed entity and the purpose is far from fulfilled. Without the Council, the three populations it represents would no longer have a voice or organizing entity within state government and services could fragment and be less effective.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The Council has only existed since 2016 and has made progress in creating synergy among existing services. Progress is detailed in three legislative reports submitted since its inception.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

No.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

No.

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission’s last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

DAIL Commissioner	\$	360.66
VR Program Coordinator	\$	239.88
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Total Staff Costs	\$	600.54
Per diem	\$	250.00
Interpreters	\$	1,581.00
Mileage Reimbursement- non-employee	\$	233.66
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Total Non-staff Costs	\$	2,064.66
TOTAL COSTS	\$	2,665.20

Staff time costs based on estimated hours per state employee.

Funding Source = program code 43010 & commissioner's office costs are allocated.
Fund split 42% GF 58% Federal.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

Yes, reports to the Governor and Legislature have been submitted each of the three years since the creation of the Council.

11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?

The reports that are created for the Governor and Legislature indicate activity and success over the last few years. Additionally, the Council’s vision statement identifies the circumstances that would demonstrate success in relation to the mission and vision of the group. Those measures include:

- Access to relevant data sets and metrics to measure how well we are doing in terms of accurate census data on the populations of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind Vermonters.
- Metrics that are clear related to Vermonter access and use of communication supports, services, etc.

- A state government position dedicated to the work of creating and supporting a single point of entry into the system of services.
- An identified Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind in Vermont (instead of a Council?).
- The ability to collect and coordinate the work of others in respect to individuals who are Deaf, DeafBlind or Hard of Hearing.
- Improved access to technology for all.
- Increased awareness across the state regarding the need for services and access to services.
- More educational opportunities and venues for individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind.
- Adequate financial resources for services and supports.

DAIL Advisory Board

- 1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.**

The DAIL Advisory Board meets the second Thursday of each month. Each year the board skips the month of August for summer break. Over the last two fiscal years, the board has met 19 times in person and one time via conference call, with two weather related cancellations. Agendas and minutes are posted on the [DAIL website page](#) dedicated to the board.

- 2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.**

DAIL Advisory Board members hold 3-year, staggered terms with no limit on the number of terms. Members of the DAIL Advisory Board, including the Chair of the Advisory Board, are appointed by the Governor. Members are not entitled to compensation but are reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with their duties as members of the Board. Detailed information is maintained in the [DAIL Advisory Board Operating Procedures](#).

Last	First	Position	Term Ending Date
Baker	Ruby	Regional/Ctrl (additional spot)	11/30/2019
Borden	Robert	Rep for older persons	11/30/2019
Breiden	Nancy	Regional/SW	11/30/2019
Collins	Terry	Regional/NEK	11/30/2019
Coutts	James	Rep for older persons	11/30/2020
Fitzgerald	Kim	Regional/NW (additional slot)	11/30/2019
Fitzgerald	Matthew	Rep for persons w/Disability	11/30/2019
Gagne	Kenneth	Rep for persons w/Disability	11/30/2019
Greenwald	Joseph	Rep for persons w/Disability	11/30/2019
Hutchins	Jeanne	Rep for older persons	11/30/2019
Keeler	Frances	Regional/SE	11/30/2019
Lang	Nancy	Rep for older persons	11/30/2019
MacDonald	Laura	Rep for persons w/Disability	11/30/2019
McCardle	Nick	Rep for older persons	11/30/2019
Metz	Nancy	Rep for older persons	11/30/2020

Monroe	Michelle	Rep for persons w/Disability (additional spot)	11/30/2019
Norton	Delaina	Rep for persons w/Disability	11/30/2020
Novak	Diane	Rep for older persons	11/30/2019
Pouliot	Steven	Rep for persons w/Disability	11/30/2019
Scott	Christine	Regional/NW	11/30/2019
Stern	Beth	Regional/Ctrl	11/30/2020
Wargo	Lorraine	Rep for persons w/Disability	11/30/2019
Zura	Marie	Rep for persons w/Disability	11/30/2019

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission’s purpose.

According to [Title 33, Chapter 5 § 505](#), the DAIL Advisory Board was created for the purpose of advising the Commissioner with respect to programs and issues affecting older persons and persons with disabilities.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

Yes, the DAIL Advisory Board is a very important part of assuring that the critical services managed by DAIL are done so with the oversight and guidance of older Vermonters, persons with disabilities, and advocates acting on their behalf. More globally, the DAIL Advisory Board serves as an important sounding board about the needs and issues facing older Vermonters and Vermonters with disabilities even beyond DAIL services. The communication and collaboration that we have with the DAIL Advisory Board has been critical in helping to explain DAIL’s position on various topics and challenges, to hear their input and to make adjustments based on the input. This type of communication and collaboration also helps to build very necessary support for DAIL positions and initiatives. The DAIL Advisory Board brings together people with a diversity of backgrounds, skills and interests, both personal and professional, and that diversity of perspectives is valuable not only to the Department, but to the various systems of care that we support. If the DAIL Advisory board no longer fulfilled its purpose, the Department would lose an important direct line of communication with the people that it is established to serve. The DAIL Advisory Board has also provided a forum for other state agencies that need the direct input and advice of older Vermonters, Vermonters with disabilities and stakeholders on a variety of matters. A recent example of this is that the DAIL Advisory Board has provided input to VTrans about the transportation needs of older Vermonters and Vermonters with disabilities as it works on the development of a new Public Transit Policy Plan (and Human Services Coordination Plan).

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The DAIL Advisory Board is fulfilling its purpose exceptionally well. Minutes of the DAIL Advisory Board demonstrates the advice and input that it is providing to the Department. We strive to build agendas that not only “inform” members of the DAIL Advisory Board about various topics and issues, but specifically to educate and obtain advice.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

No. Dissolution of the DAIL Advisory Board would make it very challenging to get the essential information, input and advice that the Department needs in order to make sound policy decisions. If anything, we believe maintaining the DAIL Advisory Board makes our gathering of input and advice more streamlined. In addition, we have been able to use the DAIL Advisory Board to create smaller, focused working subcommittees where we need to build collaboration and get input – an example of this is the Adult Protective Services Subcommittee where we have been able to work with stakeholders to maintain engagement in the functioning of APS.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission’s functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

On occasion, topics are brought to both the DAIL Advisory Board and the Medicaid Exchange and Advisory Board (MEAB) administered by DVHA for feedback and guidance. This happens specifically for Medicaid funded programs and services that are administered by DAIL, such as Choices for Care and Developmental Services, and /or with the implementation of federal Medicaid rules, such as the CMS Home and Community Based Services Rules which apply to DAIL administered programs.

8. Does the board or commission’s enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission’s last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

Commissioner	\$ 4,042.50
Deputy Commissioner	\$ 6,355.20
Executive Assistant	\$ 5,183.64
Total Staff Time	\$ 15,581.34
Per diem	\$ 25.00
Food - Employees	\$ 820.84
Food - Non Employees	\$ 3,089.88
Mileage Reimbursement non-employee	\$ 2,710.38
Total Non-staff Costs	\$ 6,646.10
TOTAL COSTS	\$ 22,227.44

Staff time costs based on estimated hours per state employee.

Funding Source = program code 43010 & commissioner's office costs are allocated.

Fund split 42% GF 58% Federal.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

Yes. According to Act 23, the DAIL Commissioner must establish a committee to assess the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program’s capacity to operate free from conflicts of interest. A subcommittee of the DAIL Advisory Board acts in this capacity. The conflict of interest assessment is performed annually and submitted by the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to the General Assembly and Governor by January 15th as an appendix to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman report required of [Title 33 V.S.A. § 7503.10](#).

11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?

- Ask the AHS/DAIL policy and program staff who present topics for stakeholder feedback, if the board is providing the type of feedback that is useful for program operations and policy development.
- Maintain a more deliberate accounting beyond the meeting minutes of input and advice provided by the DAIL Advisory Board and describe the impact/result of that advice.

Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (GCEPD)

- 1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.**

Every other month in person, full Committee, 2 hours each; The other months, every other month, the Executive Committee has a phone meeting for one hour. We meet with the Governor biannually. Three subcommittees meet ad-hoc depending on need or convene by phone. The Executive Coordinator holds agendas and minutes.

- 2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.**

Donna Curtin, Chair (2nd of 3 yr. terms)

Rose Lucenti, Vice Chair (mandated member, DOL)

Bob Burke (mandated member, Director of Veteran's Affairs)

Diane Dalmasse (mandated member, VocRehab)

Fred Jones (mandated member DBVI)

John Spinney (AOE, first year of 3 year term)

Brit McKenna (service provider member rep, 1st year of 3 year term)

Stirling Peebles (2nd of 3 year term, person with a disability rep)

Sam Liss (2nd of 3 yr. term, person with a disability rep)

Mark Hastings (business rep, 1st year of 3 yr. term)

Katie Franco (1st year of 3 yr. term, service provider rep)

Alex Robb (3rd of 3 yr. term, person with a disability rep)

John Pirone (1st yr. of 3 yr. term, person with a disability rep)

Larry Forsyth (DOL Veteran employment rep, mandated member)

Lyndsey Hatch (employer representative, VA Medical Center, 3rd yr. of 3 yr. term).

No members receive per diem.

- 3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.**

The GCEPD promotes equal employment for all Vermonters by advising the Governor on current affecting employment of Vermonters with disabilities through partnerships with business, government and people with disabilities.

Created by statute (21 V.S.A. § 497a) in 1963 and amended in 1992, the GCEPD was funded for many years by a "Medicaid infrastructure grant" from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The GCEPD was the mandatory oversight committee for the use of those grant funds, targeted towards systems change, planning to improve services and to foster connections between employment services and recipients as opposed to direct services. Getting the MIG grant in 2001 was the impetus to reinvigorate the GCEPD. With a new focus on the leadership committee and employment, it gave the GCEPD a new role. The grant

ended after 10 years in 2011. Since that time the GCEPD has worked with support from DAIL's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, with which it has a symbiotic but not subordinate relationship.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

In 2017, the employment rate of working age Vermonters (21-64) with a disability was 45.9% vs 81.5% of people without a disability, leaving a gap of 35.6%. The percentage of working age people with a disability working full time/full year was 24%. Of the 16,000 working age civilian Vermont veterans, 4,000 have a VA determined service-connected disability.

The efforts of the partnerships with GCEPD is to increase these rates and break down employment barriers people with disabilities encounter.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The GCEPD gives Spirit of the ADA Awards to employers throughout Vermont to highlight employers who reflect accessibility in the hire and retention of Vermonters with disabilities. Last year, 18 awards were given statewide, this October 13 will be given.

GCEPD attends Disability Awareness Day at the statehouse and requests acknowledgement by the legislature of the employers who received the Spirit of the ADA Awards.

GCEPD attends such events as: Green Mountain Self-Advocates conference, Veteran's Summit, Statewide Employer Ambassador Events and face to face meetings with our partners.

GCEPD develops Public Service Announcements (PSA) that air on TV and Radio to message the significance of hiring Vermonters with disabilities. Last year, Governor Phil Scott participated in a PSA to promote this message.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

This partnership includes business owners and business representatives to incorporate their perspectives on the issue of employment. That is not the same as government representation.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

Not that we are aware.

8. Does the board or commission’s enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes

9. Provide a list of the board and commission’s last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

Field Service Manager	\$ 1,003.00
Administrative Services Director III	\$ 15,221.13
Total Staff Time	<u>\$ 16,224.13</u>
Contract - Director	\$ 12,105.51
Per diem	\$ 375.00
Food – Non-Employees	\$ 58.47
Mileage Reimbursement employee	\$ 236.64
Mileage Reimbursement Non-employee	\$ 527.50
Lodging – Non-Employees	\$ 119.00
Printing	\$ 233.30
Recognition/Awards	\$ 2,496.50
Registration - conference	\$ 310.00
Dues	\$ 328.00
Conference calling service	\$ 31.03
Advertising - job vacancies	\$ 308.80
Office supplies	\$ 36.99
Total Non-staff Costs	<u>\$ 17,166.74</u>
TOTAL COSTS	<u>\$ 33,390.87</u>

Field Service Manager costs based on estimated hours per state employee.

Funding Source = program code
43500

Fund split: 100% General Funds

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

GCEPD provides status updates for the Governor's office annually.

11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?

The GCEPD is highly active, has strong membership in all constituencies (people with disabilities, business and government) and maintains regular communication with the Governor to support employment efforts for Vermonters with disabilities. We are proud of the impact it has regarding exposure of these issues and its support to both the business community, to fill openings in this tight labor market, as well as for Vermonters who want to work and reach their potentials in meaningful, revenue generating positions.

Self-Determination Alliance

This Alliance is no longer needed and has sunset. Refer to the April 25, 2018 joint memo from VDH Commissioner Levine and then-DAIL Commissioner Hutt for more information:



AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

Commissioner's Office

HC 2 South

280 State Drive

Waterbury VT 05671-2020

Phone (802) 241-2401

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To: Representative Helen Head, Chair, House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs
Senator Michael Sirotkin, Chair, Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

From: Monica Caserta Hutt, Commissioner, DAIL
Mark Levine, Commissioner, VDH

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Hutt", is written over the "From:" field.

Date: April 25, 2018

Re: Act 48 of 2013: Sunset of Self Determination Alliance

In 2013, the Vermont legislature passed Act 48, relating to independent direct support providers. This act amended Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. chapter 20 and established the rights of independent direct support (IDS) workers who provide home- and community-based services to a service recipient and is employed by the service recipient, shared living provider, or surrogate [§1631(6)]. Included in their rights is the right to organize, form, join, or assist a labor organization for the purposes of collective bargaining without interference, restraint, or coercion [§1632 (1)].

At the urging of various aging and disabilities advocacy organizations, Act 48 also established the Self Determination Alliance (SDA) to advise the State on issues related to stabilizing the independent direct provider workforce and improving the quality of services provided to people with disabilities and elders who manage their services (Section 2). The SDA was comprised of service recipients from the affected programs including Choices for Care, the Traumatic Brain Injury Program, Developmental Services, the Attendant Services Program and the Children's Personal Care Program along with the Commissioner of Health or designee and the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living or designee. Although there was no support structure established for the SDA, VDH and DAIL moved forward with outreach to try to recruit members for the SDA and was initially successful in assembling the required membership and a Chair was appointed by the Governor. It should be noted; however, that recruiting and retaining members proved to be a continual challenge and numerous efforts were made over time, including seeking assistance from provider and support agencies, consumer organizations and direct outreach to program participants.

The SDA was charged with advising the State about how to attract and retain a high-quality IDS provider workforce and to make recommendations to improve the quality, stability, and availability of the IDS provider workforce [Sec. 2 (c)]. Despite on-going challenges with recruitment, in January 2014, it produced a set of goals and recommendations that were presented to the Agency of Human Services (AHS) Secretary in time to be taken into consideration as the first collective bargaining agreement between the State and the Labor Union representing IDS providers, AFSCME, was being negotiated. These recommendations remain relevant today. By 2015, membership and engagement of the SDA dwindled and efforts to recruit new members were unsuccessful. DAIL has regularly discussed issues related to supporting and retaining a high-quality workforce, including IDS providers, with both the DAIL Advisory Board and the Developmental Services State Program Standing Committee. The Department of Health regularly receives feedback from the Children's Personal Care Services community via their staff who interact with the families and through the Vermont Family Network.

Section 3 establishes the repeal of the Self-Determination Alliance on June 30, 2018 and requires that prior to this date, members of the SDA shall review the purpose and membership of the SDA and report its recommendation on the future role of the Alliance to the House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. Given that the SDA has not met in some time and efforts to recruit new members have been unsuccessful and considering that the SDA has fulfilled its purpose described above, DAIL and VDH are writing to support the sunset of the SDA. AHS will reference the recommendations developed by the SDA in future collective bargaining and both departments will continue to seek input about supporting IDS providers through our established methods. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Cc: Tracy Dolan, Deputy Commissioner, VDH
Camille George, Deputy Commissioner, DAIL
Ron Wild, Committee Assistant, House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs
Kayla Dewey, Committee Assistant, Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

**State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired; State
Rehabilitation Council for Vocational Rehabilitation; Statewide Independent
Living Council (SILC)**

Testimony not required per August 30, 2019 email from Julie Tucker:

From: Julie Tucker <JTucker@leg.state.vt.us>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 11:55 AM
To: Perreault, Liz <Liz.Perreault@vermont.gov>
Subject: boards and commissions

Hi Liz,

On the spreadsheet that I sent you earlier today, #43-45 do not need to be reported on because they are required by Federal Law.

Thanks julie

Julie Tucker
Committee Assistant
House Committee on Human Services
[Room 46](#)
[115 State Street](#)
[Montpelier, VT 05633](#)