

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES DIVISION (DDSD) UPDATE

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OVERVIEW

Internal Operational Updates

Developmental Disabilities State System
of Care Renewal and Regulations Update

Housing Options/Alternative Initiative

Crisis Capacity Expansion

DDSD INTERNAL OPERATIONS UPDATE

Pandemic impact – health and safety focus

DDSD experienced significant turnover in 2021, with 6 of 18 positions becoming vacant between June-November 2021, and 2 more in early 2022

Additionally, redeployment of two DDSD staff full time to COVID-19 response needs

Looking ahead:

- All DDSD vacancies have been filled
- Hired three retired staff as temps to onboard new people and provide additional project-based capacity
- Reorganization of DDSD reporting structure for greater sustainability
- Long term succession planning and strategic prioritization

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES STATE SYSTEM OF CARE PLAN RENEWAL

Every 3 years, DAIL must adopt a plan that describes the nature, extent, allocation, and timing of services for people with developmental disabilities and their families

It is updated every 3 years—but allows for annual updates as needed

Because of the change in 2014 which requires changes in certain categories to go through the rulemaking process, recent updates have required updating the SOCP and regulations at the same time.

Anticipated effective date of 2022 -2025 update: Fall 2022

DS STATE SYSTEM OF CARE PLAN RENEWAL: REQUESTED AREAS OF FOCUS

Expanded housing options/alternatives

Paying parents with DS HCBS to be paid for care to their child(ren)

Increased supports specific to the needs of adults with autism

In addition to these specific, requested areas, the Department will consider all input provided regarding any area of the System of Care Plan

UPDATES TO THE REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE DD ACT OF 1996

Also updating the Regulations Implementing the DD Act (“the Regs”)

There are three main changes proposed to the Regs:

- Updates to the definition “young child” to read “young child means a person who is under age 6”
- Changes that expand eligibility to allow an individual with multiple test scores up to a Full-Scale IQ test score of 75 to be determined eligible for Developmental Disabilities Services
- Changes to the grievances and appeals section to have the same information as the Global Commitment to Health Manual

After the proposed Regs have been filed with the Secretary of State’s Office, there will be a public comment period

HOUSING OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE

Based on FY2021 data (source: [Developmental Disabilities Services Annual Report \(State Fiscal Year 2021\)](#))

1,796 people received home supports in 1,553 settings

- Shared Living (1,368 served in 1,205 homes)
- Supervised Living (270 served)
- Staffed Living (74 served in 59 homes)
- Group Living (84 served in 19 homes)

An additional 328 individuals received home supports in their family home in FY21

- Develop strategy to identify innovative range of options and alternatives
- Use of Enhanced HCBS FMAP
- Engage stakeholders to assess system gaps
- Outreach to identified/successful models to determine feasibility to meet the stated need(s) within Vermont Regulations and CMS guidelines/rules
 - Research/explore local and regional models
 - Consider national options
 - Develop pilots within HCBS FMAP timeline

CRISIS CAPACITY EXPANSION

Clinical and crisis supports include individual, local and state resources, including:

Vermont Crisis Intervention Network (VCIN): Provides 3 statewide crisis beds for short-term intervention (14-21 days). Supports stabilize the individual and provide consultation to the community team.

Intensive Transition Supports (ITS): Time-limited, comprehensive supports to avoid or support crisis situations. Supports include comprehensive assessments, support plan development, team training and consultation—in addition to the physical crisis beds. Priority is for individual who need time and consultation to develop stable community living, including those stepping down from, or avoiding, hospital or emergency department level of care. ***Anticipated opening of first location: June 2022***

Psychiatric/Medical Consultant: Provide increased access to psychiatric/clinical expertise for individuals to avoid crisis, if admitted to facility or at an emergency department with a clear discharge plan or prognosis. ***Anticipated contract start date: July 1, 2022***

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

2021 Post-Secondary Education Outcomes

- 30 graduates completed a PSE program
- 77% of graduates were employed at graduation
- 57% of enrolled students had employment in addition to their coursework and internships
- 3 sites had 100% employment rate at graduation
- Average wages were \$12.30

Employment rates reflect success of targeting internships that can lead to paid employment

2021 Supported Employment Outcomes

- 1133 people were employed
- Many were able to return to work after being laid off
- Many worked throughout the pandemic
- Average pay rate \$12.32

INTERNATIONAL INNOVATIVE POLICY AWARD ON EMPLOYMENT

The State of Vermont Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Initiative promotes college education and industry-based career training for transition-age youth with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities, and access to lifelong learning. The policy aim is for enhancing the employment options in the open labour market. In 2019 over 200 young people and adults participated across 19 transition, education, or life-long learning programmes. PSE graduates have an 84 per cent employment rate.

https://zeroproject.org/policy/pol21_3027_aw/

