

Forensic Facility

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Overall Status

Implementation activities are **on schedule** to meet statutory deadlines.

Interagency governance structure established with defined workstreams and agency leads.

Workstreams underway:

- Emergency Rulemaking
- Legislative Feasibility Report
- Public Engagement
- Medical Director Planning
- Facility Planning & Operations

Emergency Rulemaking

Progress Since the Session Ended:

- Established interagency team (AHS, DMH, DAIL, DOC, VDH).
- Completed rule outline and assigned drafting responsibilities:
 - DMH is leading development of the clinical provisions, with DAIL and VDH-DSU providing expertise on substance use disorder, intellectual and developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury, dementia, and other specialty populations.
 - DOC leading operational development.
- Reviewing competency restoration models and rules from other states to inform Vermont's approach.

Operational Planning

Progress Since the Session Ended:

- Began operational planning for the interim competency restoration program in consultation with Wellpath, drawing on experience from existing facility-based competency restoration programs in Maine, California, Pennsylvania, and other states.
- Evaluating housing and classification approaches for individuals ordered into the program, including whether a distinct correctional classification will be needed.
- Initial planning anticipates housing decisions will be individualized based on clinical and security needs.
- Assessing facility modifications needed to support clinical programming, such as dedicated treatment and meeting space.

Public Engagement

Public Meeting on Wednesday August 26th from noon-2

- Public stakeholder meeting planned for this month.
- Stakeholder list are being finalized for outreach, including announcements on the DMH website, Department of Libraries calendar, and agency distribution lists.
- Feedback will inform emergency rule development before submission

In person location:

Waterbury State Office Complex (conference room: Ash)

Microsoft Teams:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/249164843143775?p=Rtl955rCTGbAtEtzNn>

Meeting ID: 249 164 843 143 775

Passcode: sw7Qi97s

Legislative Feasibility Report

Progress

- Report framework established.
- Initial report sections include:
 - Current Vermont system
 - National models
 - Facility feasibility
 - Workforce
 - Operations
 - Fiscal considerations
 - Legislative recommendations

Next Steps

(through January 2027)

Emergency Rulemaking

- Continue drafting the clinical and operational sections of the emergency rule.
- Integrate research from other states and operational planning into the draft.

Public Engagement

- Conduct the required public stakeholder meeting in August.
- Incorporate stakeholder feedback into the emergency rule.

Legislative Feasibility Report

- Continue development of the feasibility report, including facility, workforce, operational, and fiscal analyses.

Medical Director

- Continue planning for the Medical Director position and associated implementation needs.

Upcoming Milestones

- **August 2026:** Public stakeholder meeting and Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee update.
- **November 2026:** Statutory progress update to the Committee.
- **December 31, 2026:** Emergency rule due.
- **January 15, 2027:** Legislative feasibility report due.