

## Section 8001. Safety Protocols for Social and Mental Health Workers

- (a) Any person or entity that employs social or mental health workers in connection with contracts, grants or awards funded in whole or in part by the Agency of Human Services or any of its Departments shall adopt, maintain and regularly assess protocols designed to ensure the safety of such social workers, mental health workers, volunteers, interns and other employees who work directly with clients and other beneficiaries of programs operated, administered or funded by the Agency.
- (b) Safety and workplace violence prevention protocols established and maintained pursuant to subsection (a) shall meet federal and state Occupational Health and Safety Standards. The Vermont Department of Labor is the agency responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of these protocols according to existing federal and state laws, rules and policies.
- (b) (c) Beginning January 1, 2017, the Secretary of the Agency of Human Services shall require any person or entity that employs social or mental health workers and is awarded a contract, grant or award from the Agency or any of its Departments to adopt safety and violence prevention protocols.