



Hub Expansion Pilot Update

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Hub Expansion Pilot: Expected Impact

The Hub Expansion Two-Year Pilot expects to enhance care for the thousands of Vermonters with Opioid Use Disorder and co-occurring conditions who receive care in the Hubs. Additionally, the activities implemented during the pilot period aim to improve retention in treatment programming. Further specific goals of the pilot include:

Expansion of Treatment Inclusive of Co-Occurring Care	Expanding the quality, depth, and breadth of care for individuals with OUD and co-occurring conditions, emphasizing mental health, physical health, and polysubstance use disorders
Enhancement of Available Services via Training and Standardized Protocols	Enhancing training for service offerings and capabilities to treat co-occurring conditions through evidence-based curricula, standardized protocols, procedures and referral pathways for Hub Clients
Increase in Staffing, Hiring, and Retention	Increasing the hiring, retention, and staffing of qualified health care workers to support the expansion of screening and provider services offered in Hubs
Standardized Services Tailored to Meet Needs and Capacity	Developing a customizable and standardized menu of services to be offered at Hubs, which Hub Providers may select services from based on their capacity and the needs of their communities and client populations

Background on Act 78

Hub Expansion: Two-Year Pilot Overview

<p>Background</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the continued prevalence of co-occurring conditions (e.g., physical and mental health) and substance use disorders, the Hub and Spoke Expansion Pilot seeks to enhance and expand the delivery of care for individuals diagnosed with primary Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). In this context, the Legislature appropriated funding to the Division of Substance Use Programs (DSU) and the Blueprint for Health to increase resources for substance use disorder, co-occurring mental health, physical health, and polysubstance use disorders
<p>Legislative Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Legislature funded the two-year Hub and Spoke Expansion Pilot (Act 78) to facilitate quality improvement and support a more integrated system of care model. Excerpts from the act are outlined below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Act 78 of 2023, Sec. B.1100</i> An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government. <i>(n) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following: (1) \$4,595,448 Global Commitment Fund #20405 to the Division of Substance Use Programs for a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health Hub and Spoke program</i>

Note on Expenditures: Proposals for use of the appropriation have been generated for review and approval and fall into two categories: 1) Increase of the Per-Member-Per-Month (PMPM) Hub provider reimbursement rate, and 2) service and product investments including purchase of medical supplies, training materials, staff training time. Concurrently to finalizing the budget, DSU continues to engage with various AHS and VDH entities to drive progress on Pilot activities, while also implementing other priority SUD programming.

Progress to Date

Significant planning activities have occurred to prepare for the Hub Expansion Pilot and support complementary initiatives. **Key activities and accomplishments to date include:**

Hub Expansion Pilot Planning and Coordination

- Developed a **Future State Design**, a comprehensive planning document which outlines program goals and objectives, and key activities for implementation
- **Engaged with the Hub Directors and Medical Directors** to develop the **Hub Services Enhancement Menu**. Requested Hubs to rank each proposed service based on several criteria and propose additional services. Synthesized and distributed results to the Hubs and solicited feedback to finalize menu
- Developed an **Implementation Roadmap** which details specific actions and timelines for each phase of implementation

In Progress:

- Approval of the **Hub Services Enhancement Menu** which includes new or expanded Hub offerings
- Continued engagement with the Business Office to map out funding and develop cost estimates and budget for the pilot period

Complementary Service Implementation

- Provided grant funding to Hubs to deploy **Outreach Workers**
- Issued grants for Hub providers for further development of **Contingency Management**
- Implementation of **HCV screening and treatment** for Hub clients

In Progress:

- Planning for the **Department of Corrections (DOC) Medication Dosing Unit (MDU) site** in coordination with the DOC and their respective healthcare vendor
- Review of RFP responses and selection of eligible Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) vendors to expand and improve access to MOUD through implementation of MDUs

Ongoing: Stakeholder engagement and collaboration with various entities including DMH, DOC, DVHA, Blueprint for Health, and Hub providers, to ensure enhancements are responsive to populations served and delivered in alignment with other programming.

Stakeholder Engagement Approach

Stakeholder engagement is a critical element of the Hub Expansion Pilot planning and implementation processes. DSU has had close engagement and collaboration with several entities including the Hub providers, the Department of Mental Health, and Blueprint for Health. In the coming weeks, DSU will be pursuing additional outreach and communication strategies as detailed below:



SUD System of Care Steering Committee

- DSU is leading the implementation of a *SUD System of Care Enhancement Program Steering Committee*, which will serve as an advisory group providing support and input and help drive progress of various SUD initiatives
- The Steering Committee will engage stakeholders from DSU, VDH, DMH, Blueprint for Health, Medicaid Policy, DOC, and DVHA
- The Steering Committee meetings are expected to take place once every other month with ongoing support and engagement from the committee members as the pilot and other concurrent initiatives progress



Engagement with the Hubs

- DSU facilitates monthly meetings with the Hub Directors and Medical Directors to ensure close coordination and alignment. These meetings allow a space for the Directors and Medical Directors to voice questions, seek DSU support as needed, and support implementation activities with respect to the two-year Pilot Expansion
 - Additionally, DSU facilitates knowledge sharing between Hubs to maximize efficiency and promote best practices surrounding MOUD administration and referral pathways



Additional Engagement

- The Hub Expansion Two-Year Pilot is informed by input from Vermonters with lived experience navigating OUD and available services. This feedback comes from various channels, including Learning Collaboratives, Hub Evaluations, and Recovery Centers and Coaches
- To continue expanding engagement with stakeholders, DSU is developing a Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan which aims to inform all stakeholder entities of initiative progress, timelines, and upcoming changes

Looking Ahead

In the coming weeks and months, DSU will continue to drive progress through the planning and completion of various key implementation activities. Additionally, DSU will continue to engage with various VDH and AHS entities to ensure alignment across several of the pilot enhancement and expansion activities. Key activities that represent core components of the work ahead are listed below:

Rate-Setting	Grant Execution	Enhanced Service Implementation	Evaluation	Implementation Monitoring
<p>Increase the Per Member Per Month (PMPM) rate and coordinate required payment changes to the MMIS system with Gainwell, VT's MMIS vendor</p>	<p>Execute grant agreements with the Hubs for the service enhancements proposed as part of the two-year pilot expansion</p>	<p>Coordinate with Hubs to Implement Enhanced Services Menu inclusive of expanded Mental Health Services, Physical Health Screening & Treatment and Polysubstance Use Screening & Treatment</p>	<p>Collect and analyze data to support a Hub Expansion Evaluation which can measure and evaluate impact to populations served by Hub providers through the various pilot activities</p>	<p>Monitor and track implementation activities, inclusive of service enhancements implemented in Hub settings. Continue to coordinate with various internal and external stakeholders to ensure ongoing progress and address challenges which may arise</p>

Appendix

- **Locations of Hub Facilities** (Slide 9)

Locations of Hub Facilities

Hub Facilities by Location
BAART Berlin Hub: Central Vermont
BAART Newport Hub: Northeast Vermont
BAART St. Albans Hub : Northwestern Vermont
BAART St. Johnsbury Hub: Northeast Vermont
Habit Opco Hub: Brattleboro, Vermont
Habit Opco Hub: West Lebanon, New Hampshire
Howard Center Burlington Hub: Northwest Vermont
Rutland Hub: Southwest Vermont
Bennington Hub: Bennington, Vermont*

* Please note that the Bennington Hub is Vermont's newest Hub and is not yet operational

