

Summary of DS FY2014 Rescission
Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services
January 2014

The fiscal year 2013 budget called for a \$2.5 million savings target in developmental services. The target was updated in July to \$2.23 million and went into effect on January 1, 2014.

As with previous rescissions designated and specialized agencies did their best to minimize the reduction of services to individuals by making administrative reductions and adjusting service and staffing models. Given prior funding reductions of over \$11 million over the last six years, it was impossible not to impact the people we serve.

Agencies reduced staffing by over 24 FTEs with over 200 staff taking on increased workloads. Impacts from these reductions will be:

- Slower and decreased responsiveness to consumer/family needs
- Increased stress on staff, possible leading to increased turnover
- Diminished agency capacity to provide oversight of service quality

Many developmental home providers and families will have less access to respite services and increased responsibilities for individuals who have reduced community and employment supports.

- Increased stress for home providers and families

There are 524 people with developmental disabilities experiencing changes and/or reductions in services (representing 19% of those served). Impacts from the reductions will likely include:

- Reduced opportunities for and hours of employment support
- Reduced opportunities and time for community integration activities
- Reductions in clinical services
- Diminished responsiveness to crises

As we chip away at services year after year the question arises of whether we have remained true to our values, principles and service philosophy or have we eroded the foundation of the program so much that we are facing the brink of a paradigm shift.

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