

Department of Mental Health Fact Sheet

VISION:

Mental health will be a cornerstone of health in Vermont. People will live in caring communities with compassion for and a determination to respond effectively and respectfully to the mental-health needs of all citizens. Vermonters will have access to effective prevention, early intervention, and mental-health treatment and supports as needed to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities.

MISSION:

It is the mission of the Vermont Department of Mental Health to promote and improve the mental health of Vermonters.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE:

DMH is one of several departments that constitute the Agency of Human Services. DMH is comprised of multiple units (e.g. Child, Adolescent, and Family Unit; Clinical Care Unit) that are each responsible for oversight of different components of Vermont's publically-funded mental health system of care.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

DMH is responsible for mental health services provided under state funding to special-needs populations including children with severe emotional disturbances (SED) and adults with severe mental illnesses. Operating under Administrative Rules for Agency Designation (June 2003), DMH contracts with ten private nonprofit community mental health centers or Designated Agencies (DAs) to provide service coverage to all areas of the state and with one private nonprofit Specialized Service Agency (SSA). The Commissioner of DMH confers designated agency status when he or she confirms that an agency meets state and federal laws, regulations, and quality standards for the provision of mental health services. Each DA is responsible for providing core capacity services in a given region, which include:

- ◆ Children's Services for children and adolescents with SED and their families;
- ◆ Community Rehabilitation and Treatment services (CRT) for adults with severe mental illness;
- ◆ Crisis Services for anyone, regardless of age, in a mental-health crisis; and
- ◆ Adult Outpatient Programs (AOP) for adults who are experiencing emotional or behavioral distress severe enough to disrupt their lives but who do not have long-term disabling conditions.

DMH operates Vermont's only state operated psychiatric hospital (Green Mountain Psychiatric Care Facility) and contracts with several designated community hospitals for intensive inpatient psychiatric beds ("Level I") for individuals who would have received treatment at the Vermont State Hospital.

A full description of the Department of Mental Health and its system of care can be found at:

<http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/>