

History

1993 - closing of Brandon Training School

Statute (18 VSA Chapter 204A)

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/sections.cfm?Title=18&Chapter=204A>

1996 – Vermont Developmental Disabilities Act

- Written as a document that could be stable for 10-20 years; as needs and resources evolved
- Wanted system with creativity, that could flex and develop as our abilities and knowledge evolved about how to serve people with DD.
- People with DD were just then finding their own voices, and we wanted ways for their evolving voices to be heard (GMSA, Voices and Choices)

Regulations (18 VSA 8726)

<http://www.dail.vermont.gov/dail-statutes/statutes-ddas-dds-documents/dd-regs-3-11>

Implement the DD Act - Require legislative approval – address:

- Eligibility – criteria outlined
- DD Services offered (in addition to State Plan services)
- Delivery System – DA/SSA provider certification; Self-management; Shared-management
- Individual Support Agreements – plan
- Grievances and Appeals – (GC)

State System of Care Plan (18 VSA 8725)

<http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/what-s-new/whats-new-documents/fy-2013-system-of-care-plan-update-for-developmental-disabilities-services-final>

Purpose of SOCP = resource allocation

- DD Act requires a System of Care plan; it's a way to hear and incorporate the voices and needs of individuals and families.
- It also separates clinical eligibility from funding

State Program Standing Committee (18 VSA 8733)

- Advisory Board

Services, Funding and People (18 VSA 8725)

- Home and Community Based Services (\$160M)(~2600 people) (\$28K, average cost)
- Flexible Family Funding (\$1M) (~1000 people)
- Public Guardianship (\$2M)(~650 people with DD)

Home and Community Based Services - Developmental Disabilities Services provides a range of home and community based services to support individuals and their families, increasing independence and supporting participation in their local communities. Priorities are to prevent imminent risk to the individual's personal health or safety; prevent an adult who poses a risk to public safety from endangering others; prevent or end institutionalization; maintain employment upon graduation from high school; and provide training in parenting skills for a parent with developmental disabilities to help keep a child under the age of 18 at home.

Respectfully submitted, Marybeth McCaffrey, DAIL/Division of Disability and Aging Services

Services support people with developmental disabilities to live dignified lives and find opportunities for community participation through home supports; employment services, community supports, family supports, service coordination, crisis services, clinical interventions, and respite.

Flexible Family Funding (FFF) for children and adults with developmental disabilities helps to support unpaid families as caregiver. Families receive up to \$1,000 per year which may be used at the discretion of the family for services and supports that benefit the individual and family; such as for respite, assistive technology and household needs.

Office of Public Guardian (OPG) 18 VSA 9301-9317; 14 VSA 3093 (OPG) provides guardianship and other court-ordered supervision to people with developmental disabilities age 18 and older and older Vermonters age 60 and older when the person is unable to make basic life decisions. Public guardians assist and empower people under guardianship in making decisions and taking actions in critical life areas. Courts assign a public guardian when there is no friend or family member to serve as guardian, and the individual needs a public guardian to protect his or her rights or welfare; facilitates guardianship evaluations for more than 200 new private and public guardianship applicants each year. Goal is to diminish need for public guardianship by identifying, training, and assisting private guardians; by encouraging and preparing individuals to make their own decisions; and by developing supportive community resources.

Service Delivery System (18 VSA 8730)

<http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-programs/programs-dds/programs-dds-default-page#providers>

- Services are provided by Designated and Specialized Services Agencies with the goal of cost-effective, integrated community living. Vermonters with developmental disabilities continue to be served in the community at modest cost to the state, lower than the other New England states and the national average.
- The Division Seeks to ensure their basic human and civil rights, health, well-being and safety; provide effective leadership for disability and aging policy and services in Vermont; and meet federal and state mandates by developing and managing public resources effectively.
- Opportunity for full community inclusion is paramount; not only was Vermont the second state in the country to close its only institution for people with developmental disabilities, it's been ten years since the last sheltered workshop closed and typical employment and other community activities became the norm.
- Designated Agency Master Grants - Include performance targets linked to funding incentives and hold backs. This past year, the target employment rate for Developmental Disabilities Services was set at 45% for all working age consumers. Three agencies exceeded the target, while thirteen agencies were below the target but achieving progress; the statewide employment rate increased from 36% in SFY10 to 41% in SFY12. Approximately 1,030 out of 2,575 adults served by DDS are in the workforce.

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