

## Vermont Care Partners

The designated and specialized services agencies work together as a system of care through Vermont Care Partners (VCP), Vermont's statewide provider network for community based agencies specializing in mental health, substance use disorder and developmental disability services.

Through its advocacy and policy arm, the Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services, the network focuses on: developing programs and policy; conducting advocacy on health reform and on behalf of the populations served; negotiating a master contract for the agencies; and serving as a liaison to the executive and legislative branches of State government. The business and innovation arm of VCP, Vermont Care Network, works with the member agencies and the executive branch to strengthen the quality of the provider network. Work includes: developing not only individual Centers of Excellence but also a statewide System of Excellence: streamlining outcome measures; strengthening Health Information Technology and exchange; developing a centralized data repository with analytics capacity; piloting new models for integrating and coordinating health care; and strengthening system efficiencies.

### **Mission**

Our mission is to provide statewide leadership for an integrated, high quality system of comprehensive services and supports. Our sixteen non-profit community-based member agencies offer care to Vermonters affected by developmental disabilities, mental health conditions and substance use disorders. Aspects of the mission include:

- Supporting an ongoing sustainable statewide provider network of excellence that integrates the full continuum of health, wellness and social services enabling Vermonters to lead full and satisfying lives.
- Providing care beyond health care and through enhanced services, collaboration and integration, we achieve improved value, health outcomes and life satisfaction.
- Ensuring, through our member agencies, access to a high-quality continuum of health care and support services in every community throughout the state.
- Improving the health and safety of our communities through socially responsible alliances and partnerships, information sharing, innovation, education and advocacy at the national, state, and local levels.

### **Principles (draft)**

Vermont Care Partners and its members will work cooperatively to enhance the effective operation of these principles on behalf of a statewide system of care.

The key principles for Vermont Care Partners and its members include:

- We share a belief that we are more effective when we work together on behalf of the system of care.
- We conduct ourselves in accordance with ethical standards and practices and encourage the development and implementation of the ethical standards within member agencies.

- We support each member of the provider network to achieve high quality system of comprehensive services and supports through consultation, technical assistance and sharing of expertise and staff resources whenever a challenge is identified.
- We support, advocate and respect human rights, particularly of those experiencing different levels of ability and disability.
- We promote involvement and expanded access to opportunity, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, nationality, ability, political affiliation, marital/partnership status, appearance, socio-economic status, geographic location or professional level.
- We continually develop new knowledge and track trends to achieve an evolving integrated, system of excellence with comprehensive services and supports.
- We promote and develop socially responsible leaders within the agencies.
- We understand that our own organizational practices should serve as an example of the values and attitudes aspired to in this statement of principles.
- We incorporate social responsibility principles within planning, policy and other decision making processes.
- We promote the acceptance and implementation of social responsibility principles within health and human services in Vermont.
- We look for opportunities to partner with other health care, human service agencies and education to better serve their populations.

Additionally, our members will participate in both the Vermont Care Network and Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services to support the shared mission and vision of Vermont Care Partners and:

- In principle and in practice, value and seek diverse and inclusive participation within their agencies.
- Promote the health and safety of those served through responsible, transparent and effective programs utilizing emerging and best practices.
- Foster an open relationship with the communities in which they operate, in a manner that is sensitive to the community's culture.
- Assess and respond to the unique needs of their communities in whatever manner best suits the particular circumstances and desires of said community.