

Budget Justification for SFY '17:

Name: Vermont Cooperative for Practice Improvement (VCPI)

Level of Funding Requested: \$58,000

Previous Work to Sustain This Program: DMH is working with hospital and community partners to establish annual contributions from each “member” organization to ensure shared responsibility for sustaining the organization. DMH has already worked with VCPI to secure initial contributions from over 15 different organizations and federal grant funding to support base operations.

Justification:

This investment represents DMH support of an independent, cooperative organization focused on coordinating the adoption and implementation of evidence-based practices in Vermont’s community and hospital mental health and substance use treatment systems. Developed jointly by the Department of Mental Health, Designated Agencies and Hospitals, and peer and family organizations, VCPI is currently coordinating the implementation of five different evidence-based practices in the state that have been shown to improve client outcomes (Six Core Strategies for Reducing Seclusion and Restraint, Open Dialogue, Integrated Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment, Treatment of Early Episode Psychosis, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy) and supporting the implementation of several other programs/practices (Team Two, Results-Based Accountability, Mental Health First Aid for Youth). As a membership organization, VCPI has successfully garnered contributions from both the designated agencies and hospitals and peer organizations to support its operations, all of whom have become members of VCPI. DMH’s contribution will help to sustain base operations of the program and support continued implementation of the evidence-based practices listed above.

See attached for a summary of outcomes achieved by VCPI over the past 18 months using the Results-Based Accountability framework.

Vermont Cooperative for Practice Improvement & Innovation (VCPI)

Justification Statement for State Funding: RBA Framework

1. How Much Did We Do? Quantity & Effort

- Successfully implemented a NEW and innovative type of organization – a statewide membership based cooperative in which multiple stakeholders – including state agencies, provider organizations, training institutions, and consumer/family advocacy organizations - share resources to support more efficient and effective strategies for workforce development and practice improvement in the State of Vermont Mental Health and Substance Abuse System of Care.
- Established over 50 contributing organizational and individual members representing state agencies, hospitals, community mental health organizations, mental health and addiction providers, peer and advocacy organizations, provider networks, professional associations and peers and families of consumers that have come together under a shared mission and vision.
- Developed a business plan – currently being implemented in 2016 - that will allow the organization to become self-sustaining with ongoing membership dues from the participating organizational members along with reduced and targeted state support.
- Executed over 10 major statewide practice improvement and quality improvement projects, by leveraging state funding and organizational financial contributions. Projects include:
 - Promoting Recovery: Young Adults Early Episode Psychosis Initiative
 - Co-Occurring Competency E-Learning Community Pilot
 - Six Core Strategies© to Reduce the Use of Seclusion and Restraint Initiative
 - Open Dialogue Pilot & Training
 - Dialectical Behavioral Treatment (DBT) Institute & Learning Community
 - Team Two: Data & Evaluation
 - Core Orientation and Clinical Skills for Direct Care Staff Initiative
 - AWARE Vermont Youth Mental Health First Aid: Data & Evaluation
 - Health & Wellness: Smoking Cessation and Wellness Initiative
 - Screening for Trauma in Adult Primary Care Pilot
- Over 600 Mental Health and Substance Abuse staff have participated in trainings, practice and quality improvement initiatives, and pilots in the past year.
- Over 100 provider leaders across disciplines in the Vermont Mental Health and Substance Abuse system of care have come together to participate in over 10 workgroups in the past year to inform evidence-based practice adoption statewide.
- Established a comprehensive statewide website (www.vtcpi.org) that serves as clearinghouse for resources related to evidence-based practice, workforce development and practice improvement.
- Provided comprehensive data and evaluation services and supports to several statewide initiatives and program pilots to support organizations to implement a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) framework, measure progress and evaluate practice improvement activities.

2. How Well Did We Do It? Quality & Effort

- Behavioral health leaders in Vermont report a significant increase in their ability to sustain practices and advance practice change due to VCPI's implementation support, maximizing financial investment in workforce development and practice improvement.
- National content experts report that the Vermont Mental Health and Substance Abuse system of care in Vermont has expanded its capacity to sustain and implement best practices due to the development of VCPI.
- Behavioral Health Directors report an increase in clinicians pursuing Licensure as Alcohol and Drug Counselors (LADC's) as a result of VCPI training opportunities. Vermont is currently experiencing a statewide shortage of LADC's in the Behavioral Health Workforce.
- Provided over 6,000 hours of Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) to over 350 Clinical Mental Health Counselors, Psychologists, Alcohol and Drug Counselors, Social Workers and Nurses.
- 1700 new visitors per month utilize the VCPI website. Top landing pages include; Events, Key Players, Open Dialogue Blog, Resources, Co-Occurring Competency Project Page, Members, and Six Core Strategies Initiative.

3. Is Anyone Better Off? Quality & Effect – How did we improve our customers'/clients' quality of life?

- 95% of overall participating staff have reported an increase in competency and skills related to their ability to provide Mental Health and Substance Abuse services as result of participating in VCPI training and practice improvement activities.
- 98% of overall staff attribute this increase to the best practice model utilized by VCPI including; the ability to participate in ongoing Learning Communities and access to Technical Assistance (TA) and implementation support.
- 88% of staff participating in VCPI training and practice improvement activities report that their future work in field will be positively impacted or changed.
- Six Core Strategies© Initiative: Statewide aggregate data indicates a significant decrease in the use of Seclusion & Restraint in Level 1 facilities since the quality improvement effort launched in 2014.
- Co-Occurring Competency E-Learning Community Pilot: 92% of participating staff report an increase in their skill and ability to provide Co-Occurring competency services to clients.

4. Testimonials

“We appreciate the partnership that VCPI offers and look forward to the opportunity to access the Co-op’s organizational support, focus on training enhancement and follow-up, and assistance in embedding learnings at the practice and program level.”

**Barbara Cimaglio, Deputy Commissioner
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs
Vermont Department of Health**

“VCPI helps us stay informed, incorporate the latest thinking into our practices, provide training to our workforce, share ideas across the state and do this all in a cost effective way.”

**Robert S. Thorn, Ph.D., Executive Director
Counseling Services of Addison County, Inc.**

“With the support of VCPI, implementing the Six Core Strategies© is one of the best interventions that we’ve ever done. We thought it would take a while to see a reduction in emergency procedures and were surprised by the immediate results. It has empowered staff to think outside the box, use individual skills to achieve desired outcomes, and has elevated the level here of how we engage patients on the unit.”

**Lesa Cathcart, Director of Psychiatric Services
Rutland Regional Medical Center**

“The DBT Institute Training was excellent. Having the follow-up Learning Community has been crucial in implementing and utilization of DBT at our agency. I came in with little to no prior experience and exposure to DBT and it has made a deep and important impact on the clinical work that I do with my more challenging clients.”

**DBT Institute & Learning Community Participant
Northwest Counseling & Support Services**