

Testimony on S.136

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VT Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services

1. We understand the interest of the Department of Vermont Health Access and the Agency of Human Services in having the Office of Professional Regulation do a sunrise analysis for ABAs and Assistant ABAs. We support this process.
2. Like other clinical practices, it will be important to have an oversight board for ABA practice and that Board should include representatives of the designated developmental services programs and from the designated mental health programs.
3. The Agency of Human Services, Department of Vermont Health Access and Department of Mental Health should develop guidance for and oversight of ABA practices in collaboration with consumers, families and providers, appropriate to the populations and services provided by the different programs.
4. The values, guidelines and practices used in developmental services have strong consensus and should be maintained. We should ensure that our Developmental Services waiver services stay comprehensive and can effectively use ABA as a practice within their broader tool box and with the existing personnel.
5. Across our system of care we utilize a range of evidence based practices, avoid restraints, work on communication and self-regulation, build relationship and teach skills.
6. There is a complex history with substantive differences in perspectives related to these services. If the Committee would like further information we can bring in clinical experts.
7. In Conclusion, the Office of Professional Regulation should move forward with the Sunrise review for licensing ABA professional, but there should be continued work by the Administration to ensure quality services are provided.