

## **Investing in the Designated and Specialized Service Agency System of Care Maximizes the Value of Public Resources**

### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Conditions Impact Most Vermont Families**

Over 18% of adults have a mental, emotional or behavioral disorder each year and 50% of people will experience a mental health condition over the course of their lives. Over 8% of individuals ages 12 and over have substance use disorders. The prevalence of developmental disabilities has been growing as more people are identified and live longer with health conditions and disabilities.

### **Serving our Communities**

The DA/SSA provider network touches the lives of 50,000 Vermonters each year. Last year Agencies responded to 50 community crises and disasters and our crisis teams served 7635 individuals, most of whom were not clients of the agencies.

### **Return on Investment in Health Care - Immediate and Long Term**

Our network saves money each day through the use of crisis beds at the cost of just \$500 per night as an alternative to Inpatient care at VT Psychiatric Care Hospital which costs \$2,177 per night. The social determinants of health have a 50% impact on one's health and behaviors related to tobacco use, diet and exercise, alcohol and drug use and sexual activity have another 30% impact. We place a strong emphasis on these social determinants through our care management and community supports services that promote health and wellness and through collaborations with primary care providers, hospitals and population health initiatives.

### **Saving the Costs of Institutional Care**

Community developmental disability services are far less costly than institutions. The average annual cost for a state institution in 2015 was \$256, 230 while the average annual cost for community services in VT was \$57,218 in FY16; saving VT taxpayers nearly \$200,000 for each of the 3010 people served in our program annually.

### **Supporting our Economy and Tax Base through Increasing Employment**

Mental health disorders are a primary reason for employment related disability, but with treatment employment rates improve. Our nationally and internationally recognized programs help people find and maintain jobs with superior rates of employment for people with severe mental illness and developmental disabilities, at 29% and 48% respectively. In FY16 the JOBS program enabled 144 at-risk youth with significant emotional or behavioral disorders to maintain jobs for 90 days or more.

In FY16 We supported 1,260 adults with developmental disabilities to work. They earned an average of \$10.33 per hour and Social Security Disability payments were reduced by \$1,771,185. Individuals earned an estimated \$4,357,770 in wages, which resulted in tax contributions of \$666,739.

### **Reducing Involvement with Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System**

Innovative programs such as Street Outreach Workers, Police Social Workers and Treatment Courts have successfully reduced interventions with law enforcement and incarceration. Our services, such as the IPLAN program in Bennington, also reduce recidivism rates.

### **Improved Success in School**

We support young children to be ready for school and provide services in 63% of schools. The data shows these school-based services improve attendance and academic performance, while reducing behavioral problems.

### **Reductions in DCF custody**

The Howard Center identified 311 times in one year that a First Call intervention prevented a child from going into DCF custody.