The logo for Vermont Psychiatric Survivors is a vertical rectangle with a textured, painterly appearance. The top half is orange and the bottom half is blue, separated by a horizontal brushstroke. The text "vermont psychiatric survivors" is written in a bold, black, serif font across the three lines.

**vermont
psychiatric
survivors**

Perspectives on Mental Health

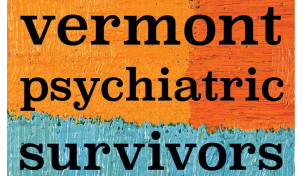
Wilda L. White, Executive Director
Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, Inc.
House Committee on Health Care
February 2, 2017

About Wilda White

Background

- 1980 UVM graduate
- Attorney
- International Management Consultant
- Director, UC Berkeley School of Law
Social Justice Center
- Psychiatric Survivor
- Executive Director, Vermont Psychiatric
Survivors since July 2015

About VPS

The logo for Vermont Psychiatric Survivors (VPS) is a vertical rectangle divided into two horizontal sections. The top section is orange and contains the word "vermont" in a lowercase, black, serif font. The bottom section is blue and contains the words "psychiatric" and "survivors" stacked vertically in the same lowercase, black, serif font.

vermont
psychiatric
survivors

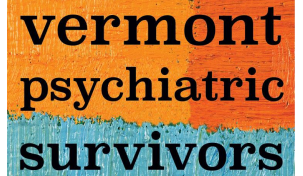
Mission

Vermont Psychiatric Survivors is a statewide, mutual support and civil rights advocacy organization run by and for psychiatric survivors.

Founded in 1983, our primary purpose is to insure the equal rights, protection, and participation of individuals marginalized because of psychiatric labels.

We offer mutual support to psychiatric survivors, publish a newspaper, and advocate and educate to resist and challenge discrimination.

About VPS

The logo for Vermont Psychiatric Survivors (VPS) is located in the top right corner. It consists of a rectangular box with a textured background. The top half of the box is orange, and the bottom half is blue. The text "vermont psychiatric survivors" is written in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font, stacked vertically across the two colored sections.

vermont
psychiatric
survivors

Programs

- Patient Representatives
- Peer Advocates/Community Links
- Support Groups
- Peer-Operated Projects
- *Counterpoint* Newspaper
- Vocational Rehabilitation in partnership with Second Spring

Concerns

- Underfunded community mental health system causing ER and prison boarding
- Uneven quality of care
- System-inflicted trauma from forced drugging
- High rates of disability and unemployment
- Police use of force in response to perceived mental health crises

Causes

- Discrimination/Disenfranchisement
- Insufficient accountability
- Treatment too often results in harm
- Exclusion of psychiatric survivors/patients as stakeholders in problem-solving
- Too few treatment options

Legislative Solutions

- Recognize problem as social justice issue, not solely a health issue
- Declare a State of Emergency
- Follow the money – engage consultants to calculate the cost of our underfunded system; re-purpose money
- Mandate inclusion of psychiatric survivors in problem-solving initiatives
- Hold psychiatrists accountable