

Testimony to House Appropriations Committee
Vermont Care Partners
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Vermont Care Partners member agencies – 16 DA/SSAs achieve valuable outcomes for Vermont

- Employment
- School success
- Reduced inpatient
- Reduced incarceration
- Support to Children of Opiate Addicted Parents

13,412 Vermonters work for the Agencies as either employees or contractors

In FY15 Agencies had a total cost of- \$262,498,664 for employees and in-state contractors

Agencies directly serve approximately 35,000 clients and “touch” at least 50,000 through all of our programs even though some are not registered as clients

By statute we address the needs of mandated populations, plus we promote health and wellness and meet community needs, including crisis intervention and disaster response

If the system fails it will have a profound impact on the safety net for vulnerable Vermonters and place additional demands on health care, schools and public safety and criminal justice services

Funding for designated agencies is capped and does not reflect increasing demands for services or the increasing acuity of the people served

Medicaid rates are too low to fully fund the cost of services, leading to low staff compensation, high caseloads and challenges with providing the most effective treatment modalities

Some services are unfunded or underfunded, including crisis services, guardianship evaluations, eldercare and services to very high needs individuals with developmental disabilities

The system of care has not received annual cost of living adjustments (COLAs) to keep up with inflation or services directly provided by state government

Unlike some other health providers cost-shifting is not an option