

State of Vermont

 Department of Mental Health
 280 State Drive, NOB 2 North
 Waterbury, VT 05671-2010
<http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/>

Agency of Human Services

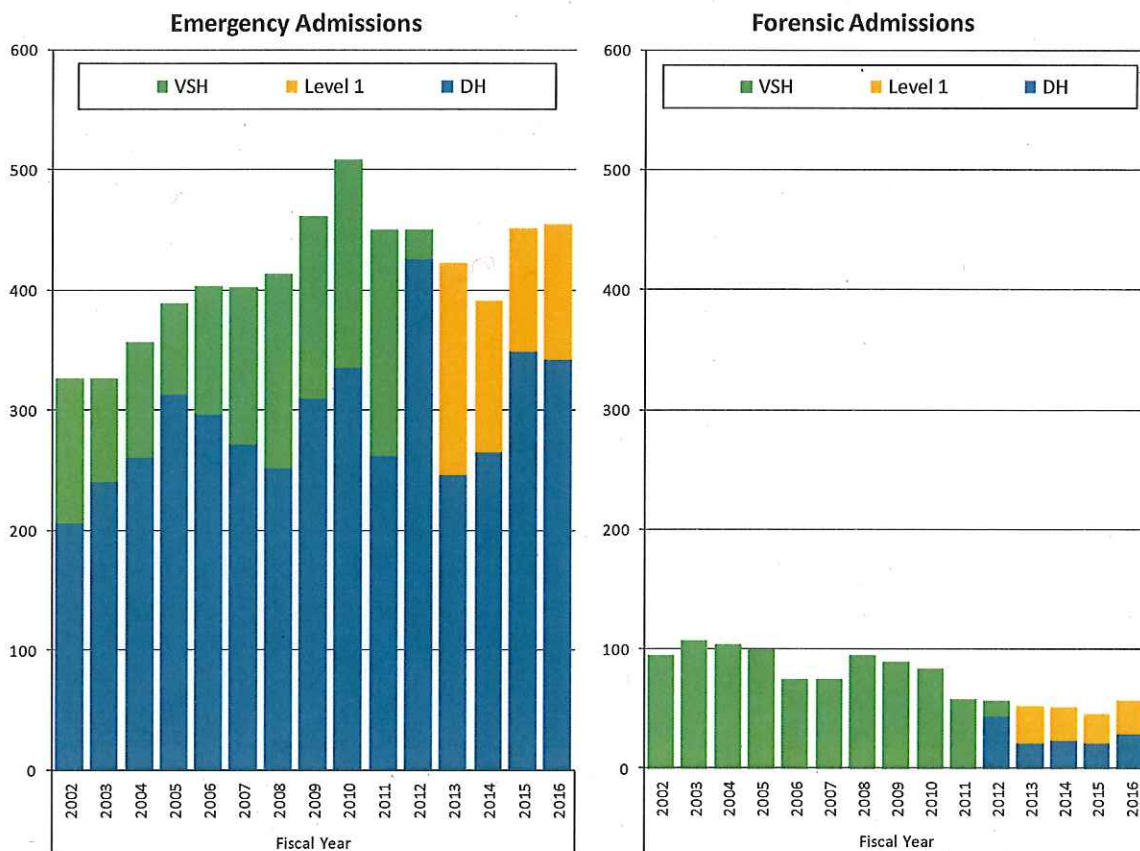
 [phone] 802-241-0090
 [fax] 802-241-0100
 [tty] 800-253-0191

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Committee on Health Care, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
FROM: Melissa Bailey, Commissioner *MB*
DATE: February 22, 2017
RE: Correction to 2017 Act 79 Report

The Department recently discovered and rectified a data error related to reports on emergency exam and forensic observation admissions, which has been reported in the annual Act 79 report and brought forth in testimony during this year's legislative session. The revised version of *Chart 11: Emergency and Forensic Admissions* from the 2017 Act 79 report is provided below:

**Vermont State Hospital and Designated Hospitals
 Emergency and Forensic Admissions
 FY2002-FY2016**



As you can see, the numbers for FY 2016 (now 455 emergency admissions, 57 forensic admissions) are lower than what was previously reported (547 emergency admissions, 80 forensic admissions). A data



quality check revealed that Level 1 stays were inadvertently double-counted within the “Level 1” category and the “DH” category, due to partial data reporting in one spreadsheet.

While the total number of adults admitted in FY 2016 is different than previously reported, all other facts regarding trends in inpatient care have remained the same. Length of stay for discharged patients—including outliers—is still one week longer on average as compared to FY 2013. Calendar year 2016 had the highest number of adults held via emergency examination (572 adults, compared to 524 in 2015). The first two quarters of FY 2017 also had higher rates of adults “walking-off” emergency exams (19-20% as compared to 10-15% reported for the previous seven quarters).

