

Adult Services Division (ASD)

Division Philosophy

The Adult Services Division (ASD) supports older Vermonters and adults with physical disabilities to live as they choose, pursuing their individual goals and preferences within their chosen communities.

Division Overview

ASD is responsible for a full array of long-term services and supports for older Vermonters (age 60 and older) and adults age 18 and older with physical disabilities. The primary focus is on managing Medicaid funded long-term services and supports and as well as services provided through the Older American's Act and Vermont's State Plan on Aging.

Staff and Partners

ASD operates with 38 employees located within the Central Office in Waterbury and regionally within district offices. Services are managed within three units: Long-Term Services & Supports Unit, Quality Management Unit and State Unit on Aging.

ASD partners with a wide variety of organizations in managing services for Vermonters. Partners include:

- Adult Day Centers
- Aging and Disabilities Resource Connections
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Designated Agencies and Specialized Services Agencies
- Home Health Agencies
- Nursing Facilities
- Residential Care Homes & Assisted Living Residences
- State Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Vermont Center for Independent Living

Recent Developments and Accomplishments

In November 2015, the State Unit on Aging was reorganized within ASD. This created a consolidated team of experts who are better able to address the needs of Older American's Act services and advocate for people living in Vermont.

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In 2015, the Department of Labor changed its regulations regarding wages and overtime for self-directed attendant care. This change required a swift and dramatic change to the way Choices for Care and Attendant Services Program's services are authorized and paid for. Because of this work, the ASD team was recognized with a DAIL Commissioner's Team Award and Sara Lane with a Governor's Public Service Recognition Weed award.

January 2016, the TBI program was transitioned to ASD, providing the opportunity to streamline access for Vermonters, improve quality outcomes across settings and ensure consistency with new home and community-based (HCBS) regulatory requirements.

In 2016, the State changed how nurse positions are classified, creating a more competitive market. This helped ASD recruit and maintain the clinical RN positions that are critical to helping people access to Medicaid funded long-term services and supports.

In July 2016, minimum wages for self-directed services were increased through the State's Collective Bargaining Agreement from \$10.80/hour to \$11.04/hour. In September 2016, Medicaid rates for Choices for Care home-based and Enhanced Residential Care were also increased by approximately 2%.

Future Directions

ASD continues to prioritize work related to new Federal Regulations for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). Focus remains on assuring all home-based settings meet specific characteristics regarding participant rights, freedoms and community participation in addition to person-centered planning standards. A Choices for Care and TBI Program Alignment Report and work plan submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will guide the process within Vermont's Global Commitment Comprehensive Quality Strategy.

In 2017, ASD will be joining the National Core Indicators (NCI) for Aging & Disabilities. This will provide an opportunity to survey Vermonters in alignment with national standards of performance accountability.

As ASD wraps up its first year managing the Older American's Act and TBI Program, it will spend time creating a comprehensive inventory of ASD programs

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and performance measures that align with AHS and Department goals. The inventory will help inform a new public-facing ASD Scorecard, which will be in a new ASD website being launched by December 2016.

Programs and Services

Medicaid Funded Long-Term Services & Supports Programs:

- Adult Day Health Rehabilitation (150 people/month in SFY16)
- Adult High Technology Program (20 people in SFY16)
- Attendant Services Program (149 people in SFY16)
- Choices for Care (5500 people/month in SFY16)
- Traumatic Brain Injury Program (92 people in SFY16)

Older American's Act (OAA) Services through Area Agencies on Aging include: (60,738 people served in FFY15)

- Case management
- Nutrition Services and Programs
- Flex Funds (State funded only)
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Information, Referral and Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Family Caregiver Support and
- Volunteer Outreach (State funded only)

Federal & State funded grants & contracts include:

- Aging & Disabilities Resource Connections – No Wrong Door (ADRC)
- Commodity Supplemental Foods
- Dementia Respite funds
- Employer Payroll Support for Self-Directed Services
- Health Insurance Counseling & Support (SHIP/MIPPA)
- Home Delivered Meals for People Under 60
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
- Nursing Facility Quality
- Online Worker Registry
- Self-Neglect Initiative
- Senior Farmer's Market

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Special projects include:

- Companion Aide Project
- Federal HCBS Regulations Assessment & Implementation Project
- Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's and Related Disorders
- Money Follows the Person Project
- Substance Abuse Treatment Initiative

Results

ASD strives to utilize the Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework throughout the work we do. As of 2015, all Medicaid services, including Choices for Care, are managed through the State [Global Commitment to Health 1115 Waiver](#) and the accompanying [Comprehensive Quality Strategy](#). Additionally, all State contracts and grants require RBA performance measures and ASD is participating in a pilot to improve this work.

As ASD continues to finalize a public-facing performance accountability [Scorecard](#), priority has been given to: a) programs with measures already required by State Legislation, b) programs with high profile and/or high budget and c) programs or work with performance improvement needs.

Therefore, the ASD [Scorecard](#) is being refined to focus on six areas:

- Contracts & Grants Management
- Choices for Care Program
- Money Follows the Person Project
- Traumatic Brain Injury Program
- Area Agency on Aging Home Delivered Meals
- Substance Abuse & Misuse in Older Vermonters