

Agency of Human Services

Mission/Vision Statement

The Agency of Human Services strives to improve the health and well-being of Vermonters today and tomorrow, and to protect those among us who are unable to protect themselves.

Agency of Human Services Vision:

- The reduction of the impacts of poverty in our state
- The promotion of health, well-being and safety in our communities
- An enhanced focus on accountability and effectiveness in achieving our goals
- The assurance of high quality health care for all Vermonters

Department/Program Description

Office of the Secretary: The Office includes the Division of Administrative Services that provides Agency planning and oversight functions for the Secretary. The Secretary's Office also provides support for the AHS Chief Information Officer, the Portfolio Management Office, the Director of Housing, the Division of Rate Setting, the Human Services Board, the Developmental Disabilities Council and SerVermont (formerly the VT Commission on National & Community Service).

Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL): The Department assists older Vermonters and adults with disabilities to live as independently as possible. It helps adults with disabilities to find and maintain meaningful employment. It licenses inpatient health care facilities and long-term care providers. The Department also protects elders and adults with disabilities from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Department of Corrections (DOC): In partnership with Vermont communities, DOC serves and protects the public by offering a continuum of graduated sanctions for offenders to repair the damage their crimes have caused to victims and communities. The Department operates Corrections facilities for incarcerated offenders and Community Correctional Service Centers for offenders on community supervision statuses. It also supports Community Reparative Boards that develop sanctions and restorative plans to enable nonviolent offenders make amends for their crimes and return value to their communities. The Department offers an array of treatment and educational opportunities for offenders. The goal of these programs is to assist in the rehabilitation of Vermont offenders and to reduce the social, economic and criminal impact of crime on the lives of victims, perpetrators and the community.

Department of Health (VDH): VDH protects and promotes public health, and prevents disease and injury through programs to maintain and improve the health status of all Vermonters. Programs focus on infectious and chronic disease control and prevention (e.g., injury prevention, and healthy babies programs), surveillance (e.g., disease reporting), and protection (e.g., restaurant inspections).

Department of Mental Health (DMH): DMH promotes the health and well-being of Vermonters in coordination with community organizations, such as Designated Agencies, Specialty Services Agencies and schools, as they provide statewide mental health services for children, families, adults and the elderly. These services include psychiatry, case management, employment, crisis and residential care. The Department also provides inpatient services for involuntary emergency examinations and commitments in which adults have become dangerous to themselves or others, or for psychiatric evaluations of competency to stand trial in criminal cases. In addition to the provision of inpatient services at the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital, the Department works in collaboration with advocacy and consumer organizations to ensure that educational, support and peer-directed services occur statewide.

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Department for Children and Families (DCF): DCF programs and services foster the healthy development, safety, well-being and self-sufficiency of Vermonters. The department develops and administers a continuum of high-quality, comprehensive child development and family support services that promote children's health and well-being, school readiness and foundations for lifelong success; determines the eligibility of Vermonters who apply for disability benefits; administers state and federal anti-poverty programs that help individuals and families meet their basic needs (e.g., 3SquaresVT, Fuel Assistance, and Reach Up); works with families and communities to make sure children and youth are safe, their basic needs are met and youth are free from delinquent behavior; ensures children receive the child and medical support to which they are entitled; and works with community partners to provide direct services to low-income Vermonters in need.

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA): DVHA promotes the well-being of families and individuals through the provision of health care coverage. DVHA is the state office responsible for the management of Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program and other publicly funded health insurance programs in Vermont. Additionally, DVHA is the lead agency in the implementation of the state's health care reform. It is the largest insurer in Vermont with regard to dollars spent and the second largest insurer with regard to covered lives.