

1 S.218

2 Introduced by Senator Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; mental health; ten-year plan

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
7 Department of Mental Health to develop a ten-year plan for the improvement
8 of Vermont's Mental Health System of Care.

9 An act relating to the Department of Mental Health's Ten-Year Plan

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. TEN-YEAR PLAN FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF VERMONT'S
12 MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM OF CARE

13 (a) The Department of Mental Health shall assemble a stakeholder group
14 for the purpose of developing a ten-year action plan to achieve a holistic and
15 integrated health care system. The stakeholder group shall include:

16 (1) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;

17 (2) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

18 (3) the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access or designee;

19 (4) the Secretary of Education or designee;

20 (5) a representative of the designated agencies;

1 (6) a person with lived experience of mental illness; and

2 (7) any other interested person appointed by the Commissioner of

3 Mental Health.

4 (b) In developing a ten-year action plan to achieve a holistic and integrated
5 health care system, the Department shall consider the following action areas:

6 (1) promoting health and wellness;

7 (2) influencing social contributors to health;

8 (3) eliminating stigma;

9 (4) expanding access to community-based care;

10 (5) enhancing intervention and discharge planning services to support

11 Vermonters in crisis;

12 (6) embedding peer services in all levels of care;

13 (7) ensuring service delivery is person led; and

14 (8) committing to workforce development and payment parity.

15 (c) The following principles and goals shall guide the Department's work

16 in developing a ten-year action plan:

17 (1) A public health model shall be used to present a whole-person

18 approach in all aspects of wellness promotion and the prevention and treatment

19 of illness.

20 (2) Health equity and social justice shall be central to the Department's

21 work.

1 (3) The elimination of stigma is of primary importance.

2 (4) Person-led care is essential to ensuring effective care.

3 (5) Care partnerships, collaboration, and integration are necessary to
4 fully implement the vision for an integrated, holistic health system.

5 (6) A life-span approach that links generations is beneficial to all
6 Vermonters.

7 (d) The implementation of the plan developed pursuant to this section shall
8 be implemented at the discretion of the General Assembly, with consideration
9 given to available resources and the completion of ongoing work within the
10 Agency of Human Services, other State agencies, and community partners.

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.