**Karen Crowley, January 29, 2020**

**Collaborative Approach to Workforce Development for Mental Health and/or Substance Use**

**VT Cooperative for Practice Improvement (VCPI) at Innovation/Northern Vermont University**

- **VCPI is a <u>statewide membership collaborative</u> representing higher education, mental health and substance use providers, state agencies, hospitals, professional associations, peers, those with lived experience, and more!**
- **VCPI focuses on <u>practice improvement and workforce development </u>activities designed to promote innovative thinking and continuous improvement to provide<u> the highest quality of services, and utilize economies of scale</u> to maximize financial efficiency for members. Our membership guides the practices and priorities that are relevant to the coop's broad constituency, which we refer to as the system of care.  Working cooperatively, we <u>achieve more progress, with greater efficiency.</u>  Members run the cooperative and reap the rewards of the achievements.**
- **We research and assess <u>evidence-based practices</u> for Vermont and we provide training, education, coaching, consultation, learning communities and other clinical resources. Additionally, we support programs with technical assistance for evaluation and science-based implementation strategies.**
- **VCPI is a component of Northern Vermont University and the Vermont State College System. NVU is committed to the efforts of increasing access to quality education for our field and leadership regularly engages with membership in discussions related to current needs in the field.**

**<u>New Opportunities (we would like to tell you more about!) :</u>  Northern Vermont University is applying for a USDA grant designed to help rural communities acquire the technology and training needed to increase access to services and supports that address key components of economic and community well-being.  In our developing plan, the target areas center on education, employment and health (including behavioral health).  Concurrently, VCPI is launching a Learning Management System that will significantly expand the web-based opportunities for learning and connection.**

**We're asking that you consider our innovative approach to strengthening the system of care as you consider ways to support improvements in our current system of care.**

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**Collaborative Steering Committee for USDA Telepresence Grant Proposal Development**

Carter, Bobbi J. **NVU Dean of Distance Learning;** Cioffari, Annamarie T. **NVU MS Counseling program:** Stonoha, Amy L. **VCPI/NVU**; Flint, Laura – DMH; Trombly, Jena- **CMC**; Dalmasse, Diane **Voc Rehab;** Buxton, Sarah/Bradshaw, Hugh –**Dept. of Labor**; Kamon, Jody/Turner, Win – **Center for Behavioral Health Integration;** Melton, Hilary- **Pathways,** Woods, Christophre -**VT Psychiatric Survivors**; Isaac Lezcano VT Psychiatric Survivors; Van Den Berg, Gloria- **Alyssum**, Leporati, Santina- **Another Way;** Harrigan, Emma- **VAHHS**; Schutz, Connie – **DMH;** Dragon, Paul **AHS Field Director;** Adams, Marc-**InvestEAP**; LaDuc, Patrick- **VSAC**

**A few Current VCPI initiatives:**

**Six Core Strategies © -** An evidence-based practice for reducing seclusion and restraint in psychiatric units

**Collaborative Documentation**- A process of documenting clinical work that improves quality of service, accuracy of records and decreases paperwork time

**Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) - An** evidence-based practice for effectively working with people with an array of serious concerns, such as suicide and self-harming behaviors

**Early Serious Mental Illness-** An initiative designed to develop effective responses to people experiencing onset of what is sometimes referred to as psychosis

**Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy-** An empirically supported approach that operationalizes recovery and resiliency in a strength-based, person-centered way.

**Developing a supervision tool-kit**