



DULCE Reporting

Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone (DULCE) is an intervention that takes place within a pediatric care office to address social determinants of health in infants, zero to 6 months, and provides support for their parents. A Family Specialist, trained in child development from the local Parent Child Center, attends the well child visits with families and medical providers. Together with the DULCE team, consisting of nurses, legal help, and pediatricians, the Family Specialist is able to help connect families with support systems to address the health disparities that often affect low income families, families of color, and immigrants in particular.

As of December 2019, OneCare was able to exceed our goal of having 3 new DULCE locations and funded 4 DULCE models at pediatric practices statewide. These pediatric practices are Timber Lane Pediatrics in Milton, Timber Lane Pediatrics in South Burlington, The Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center in Windsor, and the Ottauquechee Health Center in Woodstock. All of these pediatric practices are using a DULCE family specialist.

Table 1. Metrics for DULCE progress at pediatric practices statewide.

Percentage of well child visits attended by a Family Specialist	80% (138 of 172 visits)
Families that were offered DULCE services	73
Average number of staff trained in DULCE method at each site	Between 9 and 11 Staff
Percentage of patients screened	98%
Percentage of screened patients referred	75%
Percentage of patients accepting support when referred	56%
Number of families with mental health needs identified	8% (6 of 73 families)
Number of families with mental health needs referred	100%

The DULCE sites are working toward expanding the program and further integrating the program within the pediatric practices. The physicians have found the program extremely helpful and have increased the value of their visits with families. Parents have also found success because of DULCE. Below are some selected quotes from these parents:

“I think this program is great. I’m so glad I can have the extra help. Everyone should be offered this type of service. New parents need all the support they can get.” –Parent enrolled in DULCE

“The DULCE program has really helped our family to navigate the challenges that have come with the addition of a new baby to our family. I struggled with PPD/PPA after having [my son], and the resources and support of the DULCE program have tremendously helped prevent those issues from arising again with [my daughter]. Since becoming a mom I’ve often felt like I have the weight of the world on my shoulders and having someone to connect me with resources that can help us overcome the obstacles we face has been a lifesaver for me.” --Parent enrolled in DULCE