

**Overview of DULCE for Senate Health and Welfare  
(Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone)  
February 19, 2019**

*“With DULCE, I am able to provide better care because I know more about what’s going on with my patients. Conversations the family specialist has with families lead somewhere.” - Dr. Adrienne Pahl*

DULCE is a national evidence based program, undergoing its second Randomized Control Trial (RCT), in five pediatric practices in three states (CA, FL, VT), including Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley at Appleseed Pediatrics. The project is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) in Washington D.C., with the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) component being led by MaryCatherine Arbour, M.D., at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, and its evaluation design by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

DULCE is an innovative intervention embedded within pediatric primary care. We proactively screen for and address a family’s social determinants of health to promote the healthy development of infants from birth to six months of age and provide support to their parents. A key feature of the DULCE intervention is a Family Specialist – a Parent Child Center employee and a member of the pediatric team - who connects families to resources based on parents’ needs and priorities. DULCE employs the Medical-Legal Partnership model to provide families more intensive assistance obtaining concrete supports, when needed. The DULCE intervention incorporates a Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors approach and provides optional home visits. We include DULCE within Children’s Integrated Services (CIS) so any family that needs additional supports beyond six months can have a warm handoff to a CIS staff home visitor and other appropriate community supports.

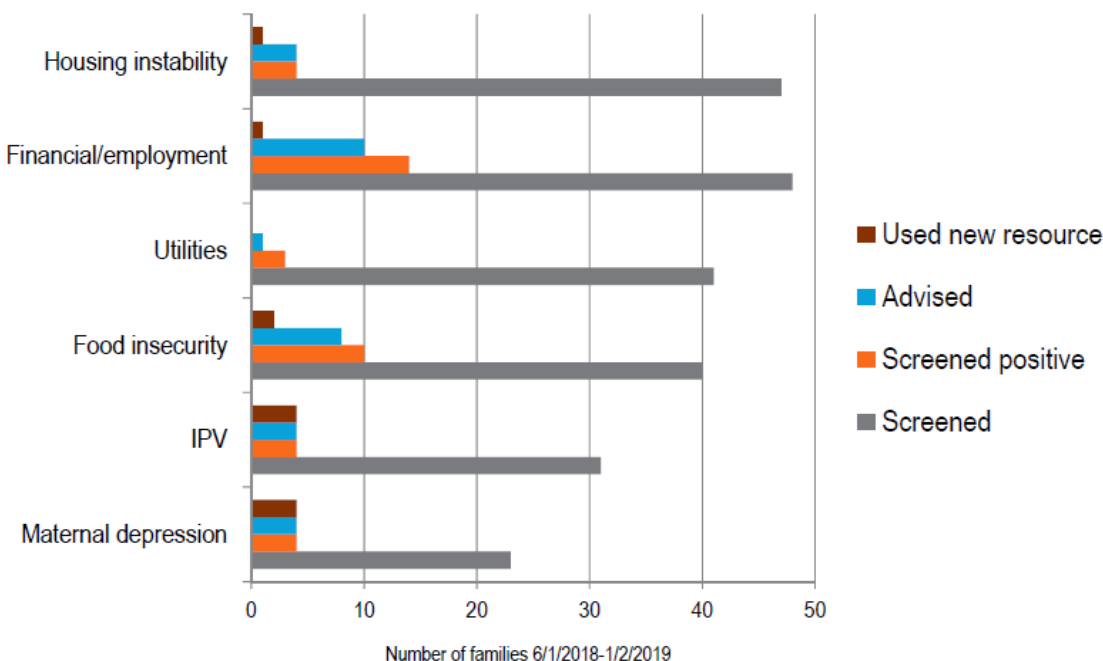
**Core Elements for DULCE in Vermont**

1. **Universal Access:** All families with newborns/infants in the medical home are offered DULCE services and 99% participate.
2. **Family Specialist:** A Parent Child Center employee is part of the Primary Care Team and is present for 90% of all well-child visits in the first six months.
3. **Medical-Legal Partnership:** A legal partner advises and supports the Family Specialist on an ongoing basis and is a member of the DULCE team for weekly patient reviews.
4. **Parents as Partners:** A DULCE parent representative is a member of the quality improvement team to provide first hand advice and guidance.
5. **Community Connections:** DULCE is embedded within Children’s Integrated Services programming insuring the continuum of community services is available.
6. **Quality Improvement:** The DULCE team engages in data-driven practice improvement with support from the CSSP national team and utilization of practice metrics to measure performance.

DULCE in Lamoille will soon complete its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of implementation, and indicators are very positive that it is demonstrating success. 99% of local families agree to participate, with approximately 330 families having been served to date. Our local data collection tells us that families are pleased with, and benefitting from the service including: 90% of well child visits are with the Family Specialist present; families are screened for Intimate Partner Violence, Maternal Depression, and concrete supports (income, utility, transportation, food insecurity, housing insecurity, housing safety). The goal is to insure that 90% of parents with positive screens, who are eligible for and want support, are connected with the appropriate resource.



## Lamoille/Applesseed DULCE Impact



### Current Expansion Efforts

OneCare Vermont is providing funding to expand DULCE with Parent Child Centers at 3 new pediatric sites in Chittenden, Franklin, and Windsor in an effort to proactively address social determinants of health. The 2018 Vermont legislative session included new requirements in 2019 that an accountable care organization must satisfy in order to obtain and maintain certification from the Green Mountain Care Board, including: **No. 204. An act relating to ensuring a coordinated public health approach to addressing childhood adversity and promoting resilience. (S.261)** DULCE meets this requirement!

### VT DULCE Implementation Team

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