



## Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

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### M E M O R A N D U M

TO: House Appropriations Committee  
RE: Comments on the 2022 Budget Adjustment Act  
FROM: Susan Aranoff, J.D., Senior Planner and Policy Analyst  
DATE: January 6, 2022

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on the 2022 Budget Adjustment Act.

### **The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council**

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (hereafter “VTDDC”) is a statewide board created by the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights (hereafter “the DD Act”), first adopted by Congress in 1970. Our constituents are health care users who have an important stake in the cost, quality, and availability of both traditional healthcare and disability long term services and supports. An estimated 86,000 Vermonters experience a developmental disability as defined by the DD Act, with approximately 5,100 receiving some type of community-based support through Medicaid.

VTDDC is charged under federal law with engaging at the state level in “advocacy, capacity building and systems change activities that... contribute to the coordinated, consumer-and-family-centered, consumer-and-family directed,

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comprehensive system that includes needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.”

The VTDDC is concerned about state spending that impacts the health care and quality of life of people with disabilities, especially Medicaid spending.

## **Medicaid Spending in the Budget Adjustment Act**

The VTDDC notes that there are 23 million dollars of Medicaid funds in the Budget Adjustment Act slated for OneCare Vermont. OneCare Vermont is an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) owned by the University of Vermont Health Network and it has received millions and millions and millions of Medicaid funds and other public funds. The Green Mountain Care Board estimates the amount of Medicaid and Health Information Technology (H.I.T.) funds given to OneCare between 2017 and 2021 to be more than 30 million.<sup>1</sup>

The exact amount of money the State has given to OneCare Vermont to date is difficult to track as every year it sidesteps the regular state budget process and moves through budget adjustment instead.

The funding in this year’s budget adjustment is being called a “true-up” for the 2020 contract year DVHA had with OneCare Vermont. Please see Patrick Flood’s excellent commentary about this true-up<sup>2</sup>. This “true-up” is due to the pandemic- to the fact

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<sup>1</sup> [/DVHA ACO Funding Support Summary](#)

<sup>2</sup> [One Care gets more money for doing less, badly](#)

that people got less care- so OneCare gets more money. The fact is UVM Health Network – OneCare’s sole owner- already received millions in covid-relief funds for all the care they were not able to provide during the pandemic.

OneCare Vermont will do doubt receive the Medicaid funds slated for it in the BAA as it has in the last 5 budget adjustment acts<sup>3</sup>.

However, as you award OneCare precious Medicaid dollars- please ask yourselves the basic questions Results Based Accountability compels you to ask:

As a result of the countless millions of dollars given to OneCare, is anyone better off? If so, how would we know?

In other words- what is the return on the publics’ investments?

For a discussion of the requirement that there be a return on investment – please see the Developmental Disabilities Council’s comments on OneCare Vermont’s budget<sup>4</sup>.

As the VT DDC recently stated in our comments to the Green Mountain Care Board on OneCare’s 2022 budget.

The good OneCare does must simply outweigh the harm.

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<sup>4</sup> [PublicComment FY22OCVBudget VDDC 20211216.pdf](#)

<sup>3</sup> [W\\_Susan\\_Aranoff\\_Vermont\\_Developmental\\_Disabilities\\_Council\\_2021\\_Budget\\_Adjustment\\_Comments\\_1-25-2021.pdf](#)

[W~Susan\\_Aranoff,J.D.,\\_Senior\\_Planner\\_and\\_Policy\\_Analyst,\\_VT\\_Developmental\\_Disabilities\\_Council~FY20\\_BAA\\_-\\_Advocate\\_Testimony~1-10-2020.pdf](#)  
[DR18-0457~Susan\\_L.\\_Aranoff\\_-\\_Vermont\\_Developmental\\_Disabilities\\_Council~Developmental\\_Services\\_-\\_Advocates\\_Hearing~2-15-2018.pdf](#)