



**Sue Chase, Director, CarePartners  
Gail Zatz, Zatz & Renfrew Consulting  
House Human Services Committee  
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Adult Day Services offer community-based non-residential supports to assist adults with physical and/or cognitive impairments to remain as active in their communities as possible. Adult Day centers provide a safe, supportive environment where people can come during the day and receive a range of professional health, social and therapeutic services, as well as a nutritious meal and valuable social interaction. Adult Day services also provide respite, support and education to family members and caregivers. These services allow for significant savings to the state - enabling Vermonters to age at home, instead of in nursing homes or assisted living residences.

The 10 existing programs are:

1. Bennington Project Independence - Bennington
2. CarePartners – St. Albans
3. Elderly Services – Middlebury
4. The Gathering Place - Brattleboro
5. Gifford Adult Day – Randolph
6. Lamoille Day Health Services - Morrisville
7. The Meeting Place - Newport
8. Riverside Life Enrichment Center - Lyndonville
9. Scotland House - Quechee
10. UVM Home Health & Hospice Adult Day Programs – Burlington

### **Funding**

All programs have, for the most part, been closed since March 2020. During the last quarter of FY 2020, some programs were able to remain viable, while closed, with Retainer payments from DVHA, PPP loans, and EIDL loans. Then, thanks to the members of this committee and your colleagues in the House and the Senate last session, Adult Day programs were able to secure federal funds through CRF for the first 2 quarters of FY 2021 - \$2.45 million in Q1 and \$2 million in Q2. Those funds helped to ensure that most of the programs were able to remain viable.

There is about \$160,000 unused across all 10 programs as of the end of December 2020. We are working with DAIL on how to reallocate those funds across the programs (or leave them with the programs that have not, yet, used the funds).

Without more financial help, we anticipate more programs permanently closing. We are in the process of figuring out, internally, how much financial support the programs need to carry them through the first 3 and 6 months of 2021 (the third and fourth quarters of FY 2021). Once we get that figure, we will let your committee know, as well as the Appropriations Committee.

### **Impact of COVID-19 – Closure/Re-Opening**

Before the pandemic, there were 13 Adult Day programs around the state. Last March, due to the vulnerable population Adult Day programs serve, the Governor mandated closure of all the programs. Adult Day programs are fee-for-service. Without needed income, there was great concern about viability of the programs once permitted to reopen. Two programs, in Barre and Rutland, made the decision early on that they would close permanently - they did not see a path to viability, even with possible assistance. A third program in Newbury also recently closed.

In late September, the State issued re-opening guidance and said adult day programs could work towards resuming in-person services. Before most programs could reopen, the State, due to another surge, told them to suspend in-person services. As of now, all are closed. This closure has been really hard on participants and their caregivers.

### **Current Programming**

Early in the pandemic, Adult Day programs were concerned about the impact of social isolation on their participants. They pivoted to providing virtual services to help combat loneliness and depression to keep participants socially connected and mentally stimulated, and to support families and caregivers. Our “Adult Day Without Walls” protects, nurtures and supports adult day participants and their families/caregivers during this pandemic.

Most adult day programs are providing telehealth/telephone companionship calls, activity-based services (Zoom activities, chat groups, activity packets, etc.) and caregiver support. A couple of adult days offer limited virtual services, because their employees have been deployed to critical services within their organizations.

Currently, there is limited-to-no reimbursement for Adult Day Without Walls. DAIL has allowed Adult Day programs to bill for telephonic companionship under the Choices for Care program. A couple of Adult Day programs have sought this reimbursement, but it generates very little revenue (about 1% of typical revenue). Claims can also be denied if another service provider has billed using the same revenue code on the same day. There is no reimbursement for the online activities, caregiver support and health monitoring we have been providing.

Vermont’s Adult Day programs are committed to resuming in-person services. We continue to receive referrals from the community for our services. Financial support will be critical for our continuing to be a viable community resource.

Thank you.