

*Vermont's Designated Agencies have been providing school mental health services and supports for nearly 30 years. The success of this model has relied on strong partnerships with schools and districts. While many are aware of school-based clinician services, a number of DAs also provide 1:1 student services and specialized schools. Our system has a well-developed expertise and skill set to effectively provide supports and interventions to children and youth experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges. We have accomplished this through provision of direct student services, team and school consultation, and targeted training. Our partnerships supporting children's mental health extends into the community, and in many counties DAs are working with child care programs providing early intervention and prevention. To highlight one specific relationship in Chittenden County with the Sarah Holbrook Center, Howard Center is providing mental health consultation and training for the Burlington children and youth who receive their after school, vacation and preschool services. With adequate funding we are well equipped to contract with partners to bring needed mental health services and supports into the community and we encourage the committee to consider utilizing the successful models that exist within the system of care. I realize time is limited but would be available to return at a later time to review the array of school services offered through the Howard Center. We have over 250 staff working in our school programs and are located in every school in the county.*