

Designated and Specialized Service Agencies

Providing an indispensable community-based system supporting mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disability needs across Vermont



Testimony for House Committee on Health Care

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There are 16 agencies in the Vermont Care Partner Network:

AGENCY	TYPE	SERVICES
Champlain Community Services (CCS)	Specialized Service Agency	Developmental Services
Clara Martin Center (CMC)	Designated Agency	Mental Health, Substance Use Provider
Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC)	Designated Agency	Mental Health, Developmental Services, Substance Use Provider
Families First in Southern Vermont (FFSV)	Specialized Service Agency	Developmental Services
Green Mountain Support Services (GMSS)	Specialized Service Agency	Developmental Services
Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)	Designated Agency	Mental Health, Developmental Services, Substance Use Provider
Howard Center (HC)	Designated Agency	Mental Health, Developmental Services, Substance Use Provider
Lamoille County Mental Health Services (LCMHS)	Designated Agency	Mental Health, Developmental Services
Lincoln Street, Inc. (LSI)	Specialized Service Agency	Developmental Services
NFI Vermont, Inc. (NFI)	Specialized Service Agency	Children, Youth, and Family Mental Health Services
Northeast Kingdom Human Services (NKHS)	Designated Agency	Mental Health, Developmental Services, Substance Use Provider
Northwestern Counseling and Support Services (NCSS)	Designated Agency	Mental Health, Developmental Services, Substance Use Provider (Children/Youth)
Rutland Mental Health Services / Community Care Network (RMHS)	Designated Agency	Mental Health, Developmental Services, Substance Use Provider
United Counseling Service (UCS)	Designated Agency	Mental Health, Developmental Services, Substance Use Provider
Upper Valley Services (UVS)	Designated Agency	Developmental Services
Washington County Mental Health Services (WCMHS)	Designated Agency	Mental Health, Developmental Services, Substance Use Provider



Introduction to Success Beyond Six

- Partnership between Designated Agencies (DAs) and local school districts to provide mental health and behavioral intervention services.
- Utilizes local funds to match federal Medicaid dollars, reducing school expenses and making services more affordable.
- Designed to increase access to necessary services for students while improving financial sustainability for DAs.
- We are currently in **64% of schools in Vermont (185/288)**– though not all the contracts are filled

How Funding & Services Work

- Medicaid-based funding stream, requiring local match (currently 42.17%).
- DAs bill Vermont Medicaid, and schools contribute the match amount based on the DA's billing.
- Example: A school contracts for \$10,000 in services, and the school pays \$4,217 as the match.
- Service Types & Billing Mechanisms:
 - **Case Rate:** Monthly rate for meeting service threshold (e.g., 2 hours).
 - **Fee for Service:** Hourly reimbursement (minimum 15-minute increment).
 - **CERT (Concurrent Education Rehabilitation & Treatment):** Daily rate for DA-run independent schools.

Regional Variations, Non-Medicaid Access, and Effectiveness

- Programs vary by region based on school needs and DA resources; however, funding mechanisms remain consistent.
- **Non-Medicaid Access:** Non-Medicaid students can access services through designated slots or separate contract rates, with additional fees if needed.
- **Compliance & Outcomes:** DAs follow regulations to ensure quality, with annual reports to the legislature. Success Beyond Six demonstrates positive outcomes, supported by data and outcome measures.

Success Beyond Six Funding and Benefit to Taxpayers

Funding Example: Hypothetical Figures (\$100 round number for simplicity)

\$100 is the per hour Medicaid Fee for Service Rate (i.e., rate Medicaid pays for services to individuals in schools as required by LEAs, IEPs, etc.)

- 42% is the State FMAP (Federal Match) Rate
- This \$42 the DA bills to the SCHOOL / DISTRICT, which the school / district pays with “clean” / non-Federal dollars (i.e., dollars the school district collects from local TAXES), plus any market cost adjustments to provide service.

So:

- The Cost to the State Medicaid Program is **\$58**
 - The Cost to the School System / Local Taxpayers is **\$42**
- It is challenging to both Healthcare Costs and School Costs / Property Taxes when a school takes supportive services staffing from the healthcare infrastructure and insert it into the educational infrastructure. **There is no way a school in Vermont can hire, staff, retain, pay benefits & supportive wages, administrative infrastructure, etc. at \$42.**
 - When schools compete directly with the healthcare system by significantly inflating wages the bill is passed onto taxpayers, which cannibalizes the mental health agency infrastructure.

Thank You!



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