

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Ginny Lyons, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

FROM: Monica Ogelby, Medicaid Director, Agency of Human Services;
Alicia Cooper, Director of Managed Care Operations, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)

DATE: 4/2/25

SUBJECT: **DVHA Language Feedback on H.13**

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback and input on **H.13: An act relating to Medicaid payment rates for home- and community-based service providers**. DVHA is supportive of the intent of this bill, but would offer two specific recommendations for language:

1. Section 1(7) should be modified as follows: “~~“Home and~~ Community-based services” means the following services provided pursuant to Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration or a successor program”

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) as defined in this bill is not correct. HCBS is a term of art defined within Medicaid law that is not consistent with this definition. This generates unnecessary confusion and reduces clarity of scope. Instead, DVHA would propose referring to it as “Community-based services” and dropping the “Home” which indicates something else entirely from the intent of this bill.

2. Section 1(7)(C) should be modified for clarity: (C) short- and long-term services and supports provided to individuals with mental conditions, individuals with substance use disorders, individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities, and individuals with a brain injury, in a home or community setting for which the Medicaid rates are not otherwise established pursuant to statute or rule that is not a clinical residential setting or a private non-medical residential setting.

DVHA is happy to speak more to these recommendations in testimony. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback, and for your service to Vermonters.

