

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Health Reform Oversight Committee

FROM: Commissioner Emily Hawes, Department of Mental Health

DATE: December 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Report Act 140 - Mental Health Integration Council

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No. 140. An act relating to miscellaneous health care provisions

### Sec. 4. MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION COUNCIL; REPORT

Creation. There is created the Mental Health Integration Council for the purpose of helping to ensure that all sectors of the health care system actively participate in the State's principles for mental health integration established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7251(4) and (8) and as envisioned in the Department of Mental Health's 2020 report "Vision 2030: A 10-Year Plan for an Integrated and Holistic System of Care."

On or before December 15, 2021, the Commissioners of Mental Health and of Health shall report on the Council's progress to the Joint Health Reform Oversight Committee.

**The Council shall address the integration of mental health in the health care system, including:**

1. identifying obstacles to the full integration of mental health into a holistic health care system and identifying means of overcoming those barriers;
2. helping to ensure the implementation of existing law to establish full integration within each member of the Council's area of expertise;
3. establishing commitments from non-state entities to adopt practices and implementation tools that further integration;
4. proposing legislation where current statute is either inadequate to achieve full integration or where it creates barriers to achieving the principles of integration; and
5. fulfilling any other duties the Council deems necessary to achieve its objectives.

**The Council may create subcommittees comprising the Council's members for the purpose of carrying out the Council's charge.**

The Commissioner of Mental Health shall call the first meeting of the Council.

(2) The Commissioner of Mental Health shall serve as chair. The Commissioner of Health shall serve as vice chair.

(3) The Council shall meet every other month between January 15, 2021 and January 1, 2023.

(4) The Council shall cease to exist on July 30, 2023.

On or before December 15, 2021, the Commissioners of Mental Health and of Health shall report on the Council's progress to the Joint Health Reform Oversight Committee.

On or before January 15, 2023, the Council shall submit a final written report to the House Committee on Health Care and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action, including a recommendation as to whether the term of the Council should be extended.

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This memo serves as the report summarizing the Council's progress to date.

The Mental Health Integration Council has met three times; July 13, September 14, and November 9, and has regular meetings scheduled every other month, as required by statute, through July of 2023. The members of the Council are listed in Appendix A.

In addition to the meetings of the full Council, four workgroups – Primary Care, Pediatric Care, Funding & Alignment of Performance Measures, and Workforce Development – meet regularly (membership are also listed in Appendix A). All workgroups are using Results Based Accountability to frame their work. This will help the workgroups create a roadmap for progress and provide a standardized method for reporting on work.

The workgroups are tasked with identifying opportunities to further integration work that is underway, or to create a new initiative if necessary, but in all cases they are focused on establishing “full integration within each member of the Council's area of expertise,” as required in the statute. Similarly, the meetings are designed to build relationships and create networks which will facilitate establishing commitments from all stakeholders to adopt practices and implementation tools that further integration.

While these workgroups may choose to continue into the second year of the Council's mandate, a second set of workgroups will begin work in July of 2022. Those workgroups are currently envisioned as Specialty Care, Prevention & Wellness, Communications & Data Sharing, and Implicit Bias & Health Equity Work.

To best facilitate the culture change that must underlie changes in practice, the Department of Mental Health has contracted with an independent consultant experienced in guiding large organizational change initiatives. A Department of Mental Health (Department) staff member works in close partnership with the consultant to design each Council meeting and meet with the workgroup facilitators to coordinate strategy across groups. The Integration of Pediatric Care workgroup has been unable to recruit a co-facilitator, so the Department contracted with Global Learning Partners to provide facilitation and planning.

The Council has heard about progress on integration in the federal Veteran's Administration and the Blueprint for Health. Members have workshopped care scenarios and discussed how their respective fields of expertise can resolve gaps in care and prevention, looking beyond the individual patient/client to the person's home needs and supports as well as their community supports.

At the January meeting of the Council, the CEO of one Federally Qualified Healthcare Center in Vermont and one Designated Agency that is in the process of implementing the federal Certified Community Behavioral Health Center will present on their respective models. Council members will then break into small groups for facilitated discussions about the models. The entire Council will also hear updates from each of the workgroups.

## Appendix A

Mental Health Integration Council members, as required by the legislative charge

(A) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee; **Alison Krompf**, Deputy Commissioner

- (B) the Commissioner of Health or designee; **Mark Levine**, Commissioner
- (C) the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access or designee; **Sandi Hoffman**, Deputy Commissioner
- (D) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee; **Geoffrey Pippenger**, Director of Policy & Planning
- (E) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee; **Annie Ramniceanu**, Executive Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- (F) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee; **Monica White**, Commissioner
- (G) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation or designee; **Michael Pieciak**, Commissioner
- (H) the Director of Health Care Reform or designee; **Ena Backus**, Director of Health Care Reform
- (I) the Executive Director of the Green Mountain Care Board or designee; **Susan Barrett**, Executive Director
- (J) the Secretary of Education or designee; **Heather Bouchey**, Deputy Secretary
- (K) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Medical Society; **Dr. Simha Ravven**
- (L) a representative, appointed by the Vermont Association for Hospitals and Health Systems;  
**Devon Green & Emma Harrigan**
- (M) a representative, appointed by Vermont Care Partners; **George Karakabakis**, CEO, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services
- (N) Vermont Association of Mental Health and Addiction Recovery representative; **Vini Emery**
- (O) a Bi-State Primary Care representative - **Mary Kate Molman**, Director Vermont Public Policy; Michael Costa, CEO Northern Counties Health Care
- (P) a University of Vermont Medical School representative; **Dr. Christian Pulcini**
- (Q) the Chief Executive Officer of OneCare Vermont or designee; **Dr. Carrie Wulfman**
- (R) the Health Care Advocate - **Mike Fisher**
- (S) the Mental Health Care Ombudsman - **Lindsey Owen & Zachary Hozid**
- (T) a representative, appointed by the insurance plan with the largest number of covered lives in Vermont; BCBS; **Dr. Harris Strokoff**
- (U) two persons who have received mental health services in Vermont, appointed by Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, including one person who has delivered peer services; **Karim Chapman & Dan Towle**
- (V) one family member of a person who has received mental health services, appointed by the Vermont chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness; **Laurie Emerson**
- (W) one family member of a child who has received mental health services, appointed by the Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; **Sandy Yandow**

## Mental Health Integration Council Workgroups

<b>Workgroup</b>	<b>Facilitators</b>	<b>Members</b>
Integration of Primary Care	<b>Julie Parker</b> , Assistant Director of the Blueprint for Health, Department of Vermont Health Access <b>Samantha Sweet</b> , Director of Mental Health Services, Department of Mental Health	<b>Dr. Mark Levine</b> , Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health <b>Vini Emery</b> , Vermont Association for Mental Health & Addiction Recovery <b>Mary Kate Mohlman</b> , Dir. VT Public Policy, Bi-state Primary Care Assoc. <b>Dan Towle</b> , Vermont Psychiatric Survivors <b>Michael Costa</b> , CEO, Northern Counties Health Care Federally Qualified Health Care Centers <b>Cindy Seivwright</b> , Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Division Director, VDH <b>George Karakabakis</b> , CEO Health Care & Rehabilitation Services, Vermont Care Partners <b>Christine Werneke</b> , UVM Health Network
Integration of Pediatric Care	<b>Laurel Omland</b> , Director of the Child, Adolescent & Family Unit, Department of Mental Health	<b>Ward Nial</b> , Representative, National Alliance on Mental Health <b>Heather Bouchey</b> , Deputy Secretary, Agency of Education <b>Mike Fisher</b> , Office of the Health Care Advocate <b>Dillon Burns</b> , Mental Health Services Director, VT Care Partners <b>Sandi Yandow</b> , Representative Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health <b>Dr. Harris Strokoff</b> , Representative, Blue Cross Blue Shield <b>Emma Harrigan</b> , Director of Policy Analysis and Development, Vermont Association of Hospitals & Health Systems <b>Ilisa Stalberg</b> , VDH Maternal Child Health <b>Breena Holmes</b> , UVM, VT Child Health Improvement Program <b>Sara Pawlowski</b> or <b>Logan Hegg</b> , UVMMC Pediatric Integration <b>Connie Schutz</b> , DMH CHILD integration grant <b>Julie Parker</b> , DVHA Blueprint
Integration of Funding & Alignment of Performance Measures	<b>Ena Backus</b> , Director of Health Care Reform, Agency of Human Services; <b>Steve DeVoe</b> , Director of Quality and Accountability, Department of Mental Health	<b>Sandi Hoffman</b> , Deputy Commissioner, DVHA <b>Josiah Mueller</b> , Director of Value Based Care, OneCare <b>Geoffrey Pippenger</b> , Director of Policy and Planning, Department for Children & Families, Agency of Human Services <b>Monica White</b> , Commissioner, Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living, Agency of Human Services <b>Michael Pieciak</b> , Commissioner, Department of Financial Regulation, Agency of Administration <b>Susan Barrett</b> , Executive Director, Green Mountain Care Board <b>Devon Green</b> , Vice President, Government Relations / <b>Emma Harrigan</b> , Director of Policy Analysis & Development, Vermont Association of Hospitals & Health Systems

		<b>Lindsey Owen</b> , Acting Executive Director, Disability Rights Vermont, Mental Health Care Ombudsman & <b>Zachary Hozid</b> , Acting Supervising Attorney <b>Simone Rueschemeyer</b> , Executive Director, Vermont Care Partners Network <b>Julie Zack</b> , Dir Integrated Healthcare, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont
Integration of Workforce Development	<b>Alison Krompf</b> , Deputy Commissioner; Department of Mental Health <b>Kheya Ganguly</b> , Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development, Department of Mental Health	<b>Christian Pulcini</b> , Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician, UVM <b>Annie Ramniceanu</b> , Executive Director Mental Health and Addiction Services/Colleen Nilsen, Chief of Mental Health Services, Department of Corrections, Agency of Human Services <b>Julie Tessler</b> , Executive Director, Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services, Vermont Care Partners <b>Dr. Simi Ravven</b> , Vermont Medical Society <b>Karim Chapman</b> , Vermont Psychiatric Survivors <b>Devon Green</b> , Vice President of Government Relations, Vermont Association of Hospitals & Health Systems