



Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

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RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

Five Year Plan, 2017-2021, Draft Goals & Objectives

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (VTDDC) would like to thank the many self-advocates, family members, and allies who participated in focus groups, interviews, and surveys that contributed to our draft goals and objectives for 2017-21. Our plan is much stronger because of your thoughtful input.

VTDDC met on July 28, 2016 to review public comment and consider adjustments to the goals and objectives. All members received a full set of comments prior to the meeting. In addition, the Council's Executive Director and the President shared guidance recently received at the annual meeting of the National Association of Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Comments were submitted through an electronic survey from forty-two individuals. The majority of the comments conveyed support for the goals and objectives, while offering additional ideas regarding their implementation. There were no comments received that indicated disagreement with the priorities set by VTDDC through its Goals and Objectives.

The Agency on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), which approves the plans, has said plans must be specific in stating:

- The goal or objective that would be undertaken collaboratively with Network Partners, specifically the Protection and Advocacy Organization (Disability Rights Vermont) and the University Center of Excellence on Disability (UVM's Center for Disability and Community Inclusion).
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- The underserved community – whether defined by ethnicity, geographic location, or other criteria – that would be the focus of a project designed to reduce disparities experienced by people with developmental disabilities and their family members.

With this information, the Council made three changes to the Goals and Objectives:

1. The phrase "characterized by significant economic poverty" was added throughout the objectives under Goal 1 to make clear the Council's decision to focus on low income rural communities as the proxy for underservice to individuals with disabilities and their family members.
2. In three places, the phrase "...and family members" was added to indicate that the activities associated with the goal or objective will focus on both self-advocates and on their family members. This change was recommended by several parents who provided public comment.
3. Objective 2.2 was revised to make explicit VTDDC's intent to work collaboratively with Network Partners on leadership training opportunities.

For additional information, please see the following documents:

- VTDDC's accessible version of its Five Year State Plan Goals and Objective as revised and submitted to AIDD.
- VTDDC's Five Year Plan, including a current needs analysis.
- Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2016.

Again, thank you for your participation,

With Warm Regards,

Kirsten

Kirsten Murphy
Executive Director