



2010 Vermont Legislative Session Wrap-up

1. There were positive changes:

- \$6.6 Million in new developmental services caseload funding in Governor's Budget
- Passage of *Walk with your Class* law allowing special education students staying on in school to be part of graduation ceremonies.
- Unanimous passage of the *Autism Insurance* law that requires insurers to cover early intervention services for children with autism age 18 months to 6 years old.
- Pending Dept. of Education Regulations on Restrictive Behavioral Interventions [RBI] in Vermont schools (commitment made to House Committee on Education)
- *H. 192, the Challenges for Change 2* law, includes initiatives for pilot programs to support people with severe functional disability in the community to prevent corrections system involvement.

2. Cuts in Governor's Budget & *Challenges for Change* were reversed:

- Children's Personal Care Services (\$1 million)
- Targeted Case Management for 380 people and families continues (\$595,000)
- Flexible Family Funding (\$475,000)
- Children with Special Health Needs Respite (\$95,000)
- Developmental service cuts limited to 1% ~ \$1.5 million instead of \$7 million (5%)

3. We still need to monitor and be ready to respond to *Challenges for Change 2* initiatives that could hurt children and adults, including:

- Consolidation of Children's Integrated Services - \$2 million reduction could impact early intervention.
- Expand developmental service residential options -- could impact quality and safety of placements.
- Consolidation of employment supports – could change priorities & reduce job supports.
- Public Safety Home & Community Based Waiver Re-evaluations - could decrease key supports.
- Reduced special education spending & regionalized special education services.
- Proposed Developmental Disability Act regulations that delete families as recipients, make self-management harder & create emergency priority wait lists.

OTHER NEWS:

- A group of organizations have started a new **Oral Health Care Coalition** that is working on expanding dental coverage. One of the problems is the \$495 cap on Medicaid dental coverage. Let us know if you had trouble getting dental care.

To get more information contact

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

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