The mission of VTDDC is to facilitate connections and to promote supports that bring people with developmental disabilities into the heart of Vermont communities.

We Believe…

In communities where all people have a "voice" and are heard with respect ;

In safe communities where all people have equal value;

In communities that are friendly and support equality and fulfilling relationships;

With opportunities, people grow and share their dreams and abilities; and

That the humanity we share is more important than our different abilities.

For more information about

2009 Priorities
VTDDC
and its projects

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Member National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

NACDD

VERMONT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

2010 Public Policy Priorities

About VTDDC and its Priorities

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council is a state-wide board that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. 14 of its 23 members are self-advocates and family members.

VTDDC follows the federal definition of developmental disability:

> *A disability that begins before age 22 that substantially affects three or more activities of daily life such as self-care, communication, movement, learning, self-direction, independent living, and employability.*

The following Priorities are based on what Vermonters told VTDDC in extensive outreach during 2006. 179 people from around the state participated in a survey about what needed to happen and many attended forums held with community partners. The Priorities are embedded in VTDDC's 5 Year Plan (2007-2011) that guides its systems advocacy work and the projects it funds.

Priority 1

PUT PEOPLE FIRST! Provide the supports Vermonters with developmental disabilities need to live with dignity as a vital part of our communities.

- Keep the promise made to people and families when Brandon Training School closed to provide the individualized supports people need to work, live and thrive
- Maintain job & community supports that also help family members and support staff stay working and contributing to Vermont's economy
- Expand flexible supports and increase options so people get what they need.
- Stem the erosion of Vermont's system of care, and require full and complete analysis of the impact of cuts on the lives of people

Priority 2

End waiting lists of Vermonters in need of developmental services

- Protect people who meet priorities from being put on new waiting lists
- Support eligible Vermonters with significant developmental disabilities who are not being served because of the limited priorities of the System of Care Plan
- Require public data reporting to assess ongoing service and support needs of applicants and those on waiting lists

Priority 3

Students with Individual Education Plans need stable developmental service supports through the transition years from high school to independence

- Develop a predictable funding system for students so transition teams can plan ahead
- Address the needs of students with functional developmental disabilities
- Require public data reporting to assess ongoing support needs of students with IEP's in transition years, including those with functional developmental disabilities

Priority 4

Vermont needs an independent information, referral and assistance source for people with disabilities and family members

- Support a specialized link that ensures people with developmental disabilities and their families get unbiased information on how to get started & navigate complicated systems

Priority 5

People with developmental disabilities need transportation options to be part of community life

- Develop a stable system for funding public transportation so that people have transportation options for work, school, medical, social, recreation & other needs