

Goals and Objectives

Revisions posted for 45-day public comment period



The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (VTDDC) is seeking public comment on changes to its Five-Year State Plan. Comments must be in writing. They are due by the end of the day, Sunday, August 12, 2018 and should be directed to: Kirsten Murphy, Executive Director, VTDDC, Kirsten.Murphy@Vermont.gov .

NOTE: Recommended new wording is printed in red, **like this**. Recommended deletions are crossed out, ~~like this~~. The reason for the suggested changes are in blue type, **like this**. Recommendations range from minor changes – for example, making the Plan more consistent – to major changes like the addition of a new objective.

Goal 1: VTDDC will reduce barriers to competitive employment, inclusive education, and effective health care services for people with developmental disabilities in **at least** two (2) underserved **rural** Vermont communities characterized by significant economic poverty.

Reason: *Flexibility; will include projects that impact rural, low income areas beyond the Northeast Kingdom and Windham County – for example, Bennington.*

Objective 1.1

- In collaboration with partner organizations, ~~work to~~ bring health outcomes for people with developmental disabilities closer to those of people without developmental disabilities ~~in an underserved Vermont community~~, **especially in underserved, rural, low income Vermont communities.**

Reason: *Clarity and consistency.*

Objective 1.2

- Promote the use of available ~~funding and~~ programs for competitive employment, **education, and healthcare** for Vermonters with developmental disabilities **especially those living in underserved, rural, low income** ~~underserved~~ Vermont communities.

Reason: Expands objective to promoting wide range of programs. Will include advocating for best-practice education programs like PBIS, per H. 897.

Objective 1.3

- Support initiatives that position Vermont as a leader in developing and expanding entrepreneurial opportunities and innovative approaches to job training for people with developmental disabilities, especially those living in **underserved, rural, low income** ~~underserved~~ Vermont communities.

Reason: Consistency

Objective 1.4

- Promote peer-to-peer training and support -- including supported decision making **and independent options counseling** -- as a highly valued part of person-and-family-centered care planning for people with developmental disabilities **and their family members**, especially those living in **underserved, rural, low income** ~~underserved~~ Vermont communities.

Reason: Adds ability to count projects that focus on conflict-free case management through exploring alternatives for options counseling. Adds family members to such projects. Consistency.

Objective 1.5

- **Support families advocating for best practices in special education services for their child, including improving access to legal services, in underserved, rural, low income Vermont communities.**

Reason: Per vote of full Council at September 2017 meeting.

* * * * *

Goal 2: VTDDC will nurture and support a powerful movement of self-advocates and family members prepared to advocate for policies, programs, and funding that realize the vision of the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 [42 USC 15,001 et seq (2000)].

Objective 2.1

- Identify and collect information about Vermonters who have a developmental disability, including those who meet the federal definition of “developmental disability” [42 U.S. Code §15002(8)] but who do not meet the State of Vermont definition of “developmental disability” for the purposes of receiving home- and community-based **services supports** (HCBS) [18 V.S.A. §8722(2)].

Reason: Consistency

Objective 2.2

- In collaboration with VTDDC’s Network Partners – Disability Rights Vermont and the UVM Center for Disability and Community Inclusion – **and other advocacy groups**, conduct multiple leadership training opportunities where self-advocates and family members come together to learn how to model and advocate for inclusion, self-determination, productivity, and independence.

Reason: Expands partners because Vermont Family Network and GMSA are the primary collaborators in the Leadership Series. Still need to call out Network Partners specifically to satisfy a requirement of the DD Act.

Objective 2.3

- Engage self-advocates and family members through the dissemination of information and alerts; through soliciting their input about the issues impacting their lives; and through assisting them in practicing advocacy skills, including at the local and regional level.

Objective 2.4

- Build a repository of stories from self-advocates and family members in multiple formats (audio, video, or written) that can be used as advocacy and training tools.

* * * * *

GOAL 3: VTDDC will vigorously seek changes in Vermont’s many service systems so that Vermonters with developmental disabilities – including those who are currently not identified as having a developmental disability under Vermont law [18 V.S.A. §8722(2)] – and their family members have greater and more equitable access to supports that foster the four values in the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000: community inclusion, self-determination, productivity, and independence.

Objective 3.1

- Through a public awareness campaign, disseminate information widely about the prevalence, accomplishments, stories, and needs of the estimated 86,000 Vermonters with developmental disabilities, including those who do not qualify for home- and community-based services (HCBS) through the state Developmental Services System of Care.

Objective 3.2

- Advocate that the Developmental Services System of Care place greater emphasis on pro-actively supporting individuals rather than reacting to crises, ~~and~~ expand the percentage of ~~eligible~~ individuals ~~who~~ **eligible to receive home- and community-based services (HCBS), and receive adequate resources to provide high quality support.**

Reason: Clarity. Expands objective to include advocacy related to the state budget.

Objective 3.3

- Promote access to existing care coordination **services for Vermonters with developmental disabilities** through provider training, appropriate accommodations, and targeted outreach.

Reason: Clarity

Objective 3.4

- ~~• In collaboration with VTDDC's Network Partner, Disability Rights Vermont, which is Vermont's the Protection and Advocacy Agency, advocate that the Choices for Care program offer the same services and supports to people 18 to 64 years of age as the Developmental Services program offers to people with developmental disabilities, including supported employment.~~

Reason: The Disability Law Project explored this objective and did not find reasons or opportunities to pursue.

Objective 3.5

- Advocate to expand family support funding, including funding for respite.

Objective 3.4 (new)

- Strengthen VTDDC's capacity for cultural and linguistic competency (CLC) and, through participation in Vermont's Community of Practice for CLC, advocate that all disability-related services be welcoming and accessible to diverse groups of Vermonters.

Reason: Added to capture the work VTDDC is doing as part of a "transformation grant" from the Agency of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) to make Vermont's service systems more culturally and linguistically competent.