

**MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE**  
**February 24, 2009**

## *Pieces Of History In Vermont Mental Health*

*The “Pieces of History” series in the Mental Health Update describes key events and significant policy milestones in the evolving Mental Health Systems of Care, thus, connecting our past to the present.*

**1985** In the early 1980s while many adults with mental illness were institutionalized in state hospitals, many children and adolescents were institutionalized through channels of juvenile justice and child welfare. Shortly after the publication of Jane Knitzer’s *Unclaimed Children* in 1982, the federal government established the Child and Adolescent Service System Project (CASSP). Under the leadership and authorship of John Pierce in the Department of Mental Health, Vermont was an early recipient of a CASSP five-year planning grant in 1985. This grant funded the state’s ambitious undertaking of planning an interagency system of care with mental health, child welfare, education, and families that would help parents to raise their children in their own home, school, and community.

### **ADULT MENTAL HEALTH**

#### **Notice of Housing & Urban Development Continuum of Care Competition Awards**

The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development announced renewal funding awards to for transitional housing and shelter plus care grants that support the community mental health system of care. The awards for the “balance of state continuum of care” competition projects supping homeless mentally ill persons in Vermont, is \$1.7 million.

Project recipients include 174 North Main Street of Norwest Counseling and Support Services, Barre Street (Central Vermont Community Land Trust), Hill House of Counseling Services of Addison County, NEKHS Transitional Housing, Safe Haven in Randolph., Shelter Plus Care Brattleboro, and support for the Homeless Information Management System (HMIS).

DMH is pleased with the success of the ongoing collaboration with Vermont State Housing Authority and the balance of state continuum of care in bringing housing resources to Vermonters.

## **Blueprint for Health Annual Conference to Highlight Integration of Health and Behavioral Health**

The Sixth Vermont Blueprint for Health Annual Conference will highlight the critical nature of collaboration and integration. The Blueprint is guiding a comprehensive and statewide process of transformation designed to reduce the health and economic impact of the most common chronic conditions and focus on their prevention.

Conference attendees will:

- Learn about the integration of behavioral health with primary care in the Patient-Centered Medical Home model.
- Learn about the recent approaches to recovery from substance abuse.
- Hear about the national trends in health care reform.
- Hear about the current activities of the Vermont Blueprint for Health.

For more information, go to: <http://healthvermont.gov/blueprint.aspx>

## **DMH Receives Certificate of Approval Applications**

The Department of Mental Health has received applications for Certificate of Approval (COA) from Lamoille County Mental Health (LCMH) and Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) of Southeastern Vermont. The LCMH COA outlines its intent to renovate a 30,000 square foot facility located in Morrisville. The renovation project will allow the consolidation of multiple treatment site locations into one larger facility. The HCRS COA outlines its proposal for the development of the Meadowview Recovery Residence Program which will be operated in partnership with the Brattleboro Retreat. This proposal seeks to develop a six-bed staff secure residential program in Brattleboro. The Department of Mental Health is in the process of reviewing the COA applications to determine completeness and/or seek additional information from the two agencies. Once applications have been determined complete, a public review and comment process will take place to help inform the Commissioner's decisions.

## **DMH Receives Funding to Promote Community-Based Care**

The Department of Mental Health recently received the third and final grant award of \$20,000 from the New Freedom Initiative: State Coalitions to Promote Community-Based Care grant program to continue its work on the implementation of evidence-based practices in Vermont's community mental health system for adults. Over the past three years, Vermont has used funding through this grant program to create and support a multi-stakeholder Clinical Practices Advisory Panel to review and make recommendations regarding how evidenced-based practices should be implemented in Vermont. Funds will be used during this year to support the implementation of recommendations created by the panel. For more information, contact Nick Nichols at 652-2000 or [nick.nichols@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:nick.nichols@ahs.state.vt.us). For a copy of the Clinical Practices Advisory Panel Recommendations, go to: <http://www.vtcouncil.org/>

## **Meeting of Local Peer-Operated Projects Highlights Successes and Challenges of Peer Initiatives**

Vermont Psychiatric Survivors (VPS) recently hosted a meeting of the seven different local peer-run initiatives that receive funding through the Department of Mental Health and VPS-sponsored Peer-Operated Projects (POP) program. Through this program, peers in different communities around the state have been receiving funding to complete a variety of peer activities. Examples of these peer activities include: running a local warm line, completing public education and awareness about mental illness and mental health issues, peer-run computer and art classes, and sponsoring training and education on peer support. The meeting featured presentations by the different peer initiatives and provided a forum for discussions and problem-solving re: different challenges that the program face. For more information, Nick Nichols at 652-2000, or [nick.nichols@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:nick.nichols@ahs.state.vt.us), or Linda Corey at Vermont Psychiatric Survivors.

## ***CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH***

### **System of Care Plan for Children's Mental Health**

A new *Statewide System of Care Plan for Child, Adolescent, and Family Mental Health in Vermont (FY2009 – 2011)* has just been printed. The document describes the vision, current reality, and three-year priorities for the public mental health system. It aims to provide all Vermonters with a basic understanding of:

- how the system of care serves Vermont children and adolescents with mental health issues and their families;
- how funds from taxpayers and other sources are used; and
- how the Department of Mental Health works in collaboration with Designated and Specialized Service Agencies and with families on taking the “next steps” on the road to emotional health for all Vermont’s children and families.

Copies of this document may be found at the Department’s website:

[www.healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/cafu/pubs-cafu.aspx](http://www.healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/cafu/pubs-cafu.aspx).

## ***FUTURES PROJECT***

### **Transformation Council**

Consumers, providers, and advocates discussed the progress in the Futures project, the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and reviewed proposed legislation to create a framework for surrogate decision-making for medical treatment. At the request of Council members, the *FY10 Budget Request Ups and Downs* is posted on the DMH web site at <http://healthvermont.gov/mh/documents/AHSFY10upsdownsVersion21-withnarrative-Jan22-091.pdf>.

Representative Anne Donahue presented her bill, H.151, revising a complex array of statutory provisions concerning the way in which medical decision-making occurs for individuals with a mental illness. The legislation would create a uniform process for substitute decision making when the individual lacks consent capacity to make their own

medical decisions. Participants expressed appreciation for the significant and complex legislation that Representative Donahue has introduced on surrogacy in health care decisions .

## ***VERMONT INTEGRATED SERVICES INITIATIVE (VISI)***

### **Co-Occurring Case Consultation Call**

The next VISI Co-Occurring Case Consultation Call is scheduled for March 11, 2009 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm. The presenting agency will be the Clara Martin Center. These Co-Occurring Case Consultations occur every other month and aim to provide a venue for agencies to consult with a group of professionals around providing effective treatment for people with co-occurring conditions. If you interested in joining this case consultation call, please contact Patty Breneman at pbrenem@vdh.state.vt.us or (802) 652-2033.

### **VISI Training: "Developing Better Clinical Supervision Skills for Co-Occurring Disorders"**

This Friday, February 27th, Anthony Quintiliani will be presenting a training entitled "Developing Better Clinical Supervision Skills for Co-Occurring Disorders" at the Langevin House at Vermont Technical College from 8:45am until 3:30pm. If you're interested in attending, there are still spaces available! Please contact Patty Breneman at pbrenem@vdh.state.vt.us or (802) 652-2033.

## ***VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL***

### **Rounds Audit Result's Congratulations!**

Since October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 and ending February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the daily clinical rounds and team meetings have been audited for discussion of emergency involuntary procedures (EIPs) that had occurred on the prior day (or prior weekend for Monday rounds). During this time period 51 rounds were attended and 134 EIPs (97%) were discussed. Only 4 EIPs (3%) were not heard to be discussed during those meetings.

Congratulations go out to all the staff members involved in those rounds. Thank you for the focus and awareness you have shown in doing your thoughtful work at a very high level. Keep up the great work!

## ***VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL CENSUS***

The Vermont State Hospital Census was 44 as of midnight Tuesday. The average census for the past 45 days was 45.9