

The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs (DSU) supports the enhancement of the prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery provider workforce in Vermont. Professional development opportunities, inclusive of offerings required to maintain licensures, are promoted by DSU to our community partners and made available via our [Workforce Development Training Opportunities Calendar](#). Community partners are also able, and encouraged, to submit training opportunities to the calendar.

Activities offered by DSU are primarily supported through state and federal grants and partnerships with national, state and community organizations.

Our goals are to support skill-development within the workforce, attract and inform Vermonters who may have an interest in entering the field and increase the number of qualified workers.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strategies are training, learning collaboratives, conferences, partnerships**
- **Digital offerings increase access due to decreased travel barriers**

## What progress have we made in the past year?

### Training

Funding supported twenty-eight (28) core competency trainings to 979 participants. Ninety percent (90%) of these participants reported increased knowledge or skill in the presented topic. Examples of these trainings include Importance of Cultural Intelligence, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Introduction to Health Equity, Employee Burnout and Self-Care, Clinical Supervision and Addiction: Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology.

In 2024, DSU offered training and technical assistance to support implementation of evidence-based Contingency Management (CM) to improve people's adherence to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment plans and protocols and improve people's retention in SUD treatment.

### Learning Collaboratives

Between July 2023 – June 2024, over 800 attendees participated in Collaborative to Advance Mental Health Treatment and Substance Use Recovery for Everyone (CARE) sessions offered in partnership with the Blueprint for Health and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. Additionally, 179 health professionals working in substance use and mental health services attended the 2024 Whole Person Care: Enhancing substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Treatment annual conference. These learning opportunities focused on topics including issues in assessing suicidality risks, screening for social determinants of health, managing alcohol use disorders and withdrawal symptoms, and understanding criminal justice populations, among others.

#### TRAININGS SUMMARY

- **28 Trainings**
- **979 Participants**
- **90% of participants reported increased knowledge/skill**

## Scholarships

Thirty-seven (37) professionals, volunteers and students were supported to attend the New England School of Addiction and Prevention Studies and twenty-one (21) supported to attend New England School of Best Practices in Addiction Treatment. These schools provide a range of basic and advanced trainings on topics like clinical supervision, population-specific considerations, best practices and organizational management. DSU also supported one Vermonter in participating in the New England Leadership Development Program offered by the New England Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC).

## What are we planning in 2025?



DSU is working with the Vermont Cooperative for Practice Improvement & Innovation to coordinate a system-wide substance use conference in 2025.

**When:** Tuesday May 20th and Wednesday May 21st.

**Where:** DoubleTree by Hilton in Burlington, 870 Williston Rd, South Burlington, VT 05403

**What:** A substance use system of care-wide conference, bringing people and providers together to collaborate, coordinate and connect.

**Contact:** We are partnering with [Vermont Cooperative for Practice Improvement & Innovation \(VCPI\)](#) on this conference and they are monitoring this email address for questions: [vtduconference@gmail.com](mailto:vtduconference@gmail.com)

## Where are resources and opportunities listed?

Training and continuing education resources and credentialing information can be found at: [HealthVermont.gov/SubstanceUseWorkforce](https://HealthVermont.gov/SubstanceUseWorkforce)

For more information, contact [AHS.VDHDSU@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHDSU@vermont.gov).