



Vermont Agency of Human Services

Testimony to House Committee on Human Services

January 13, 2015

Secretary Hal Cohen



Vermont Agency of Human Services

Agency Mission

The Agency of Human Services strives to improve the health and well being of Vermonters today and tomorrow and to protect those among us who are unable to protect themselves.



Vermont Agency of Human Services

AHS Priority

To make a difference in the lives of Vermonters through integration, focus on outcomes and program effectiveness.



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AHS Structure

Six Departments:

- ❑ Department for Children and Families (DCF)
- ❑ Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- ❑ Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL)
- ❑ Department of Health (VDH)
- ❑ Department of Corrections (DOC)
- ❑ Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)



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The AHS Secretary's Office is responsible for:

- ❑ Integration of Health and Human Services
- ❑ Coordination of Policy and Planning
- ❑ Operational Consistency
- ❑ Alignment of Housing Efforts
- ❑ Integration of Medicaid Policy
- ❑ Legislative Coordination
- ❑ Centralized Financial Direction
- ❑ Centralized Information Technology



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The Agency of Human Services serves Vermonters across the continuum of their lives.

Although we address screening, intervention and treatment; we are focused on prevention and on building individuals and families that are resilient and self-sufficient.



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Last fiscal year, our departments touched approximately:

- ❑ 195,000 Vermonters in DCF
- ❑ 30,000 Vermonters in DMH
- ❑ 98,829 Vermonters in DAIL
- ❑ **All** Vermonters in VDH
- ❑ 16,444 Vermonters in DOC
- ❑ 218,000 Vermonters in DVHA

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AHS Information

- ❑ Agency SFY'15 appropriation *(after recession)*: **\$3,571,404,525**
- ❑ Agency staff: **3,786**
- ❑ Offices:
 - ✓ Central Offices in Williston and Burlington;
 - ✓ District offices in 12 locations across the state
- ❑ Community Provider Networks:
 - ✓ Designated Agencies
 - ✓ Area Agencies on Aging
 - ✓ Community Action Programs
 - ✓ Home Health Agencies
 - ✓ Parent Child Network



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The AHS Strategic Plan Goals

- ❑ **Decrease the lasting impacts of poverty** on individuals, children and families in Vermont and **create pathways out of poverty**
- ❑ **Promote the health, well-being and safety** of individuals, families and our communities
- ❑ Enhance AHS's focus on **program effectiveness, accountability** for outcomes, and **workforce development and engagement**
- ❑ Ensure that all Vermonters have **access to high quality health care**



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Building a Culture of Performance Accountability

- ❑ Strategic Planning and Implementation
- ❑ Regular Use of Data
- ❑ Use of Results Based Accountability (RBA) and other performance management tools
- ❑ Partnerships with Community Providers:
Contracts/Grants/Performance
- ❑ AHS Performance STAT
- ❑ AHS Scorecard
- ❑ Staff Development, Communication and Training



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Building **Systems** for Integration

Integrated Family Services

Substance Abuse Treatment
Coordination

Creative Workforce Solutions

AHS Housing Task Force

Early Childhood

Health and Human Services
Enterprise

Recidivism Task Force