

To: Chair Lippert and Vice Chair Donahue  
From: Vermont Peer Workforce Development Steering Committee  
Date: February 23rd, 2021  
Subject: Halt the Middlesex TCR Replacement Project

Hello,

We, the members of the Vermont Peer Workforce Development Steering Committee, are reaching out to appeal to you to help put a stop to the funding of \$11.6 million for a new 16-bed replacement for the current 7-bed Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence.

We are calling to a halt to the project because:

1. **People with lived experiences voices were not at the table in meaningful ways during the conception and planning of this project.**
2. The use of restraints, seclusion, and forced drugging that are part of the project design is inhumane.
3. Data to justify the expansion of beds is insufficient.
4. The impact of the new 12-bed at the Brattleboro Retreat has not been examined.

Sincerely,

Vermont Peer Workforce Steering Committee

Karim Chapman, Vermont Psychiatric Survivors  
Hilary Melton, Pathways Vermont  
Leslie Nelson, Howard Center  
Malaika Puffer, Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Vermont  
Rene Rose, Northeast Kingdom Human Services  
Ken Russell, Another Way Vermont  
Dan Towle, Mental Health/Peer Support Advocate  
Gloria Van den Berg, Alyssum Vermont  
Katie Wilson, Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery