

## AHS Substance Abuse Treatment Coordination Initiative Overview

May 2015

### **Purpose**

The Substance Abuse Treatment Coordination Initiative (SATC) is a Stat process employed by Agency of Human Services (AHS) leadership. The purpose of this Stat is to establish a coordinated approach to serving Vermonters with substance abuse problems across all departments. AHS recognizes the substantial burden that substance abuse has on individuals seeking AHS services, particularly those who need multiple services and therefore enter the AHS system through different doors. If we can intervene early and better serve Vermonters dealing with substance abuse issues, then other outcomes will improve.

### **AHS Indicators**

- Percent of people age 12+ who need and do not receive alcohol treatment
- Percent of people age 12+ who need and do not receive treatment for illicit drug use

### **Recommended Actions**

#### **Develop a screening policy that requires:**

- A systematized method of screening clients with an evidence-based tool
- Training staff in evidenced-based substance abuse screening techniques
- That screening will in no way impact access to AHS services
- Establishment of Department-level protocols for implementation of the policy
  - Includes mechanism for referring clients who screen positive to appropriate assessment services

*Status:* Policy completed (<http://humanservices.vermont.gov/policy-legislation/1-12-screening-for-substance-abuse.pdf/view>). Protocols in finalization.

#### **Train staff and managers about substance abuse**

- Direct Service I Staff – Co-Occurring Training: On-line training aims to help workers recognize substance use mental health and co-occurring disorders in those they work with in order to increase sensitivity
- Direct Service II Staff – Substance Abuse Screening Training: 2-hour in-person training provides overview of substance use disorders, screening skills practice, and departmental expectations for screening clients and referring for assessment
- Supervisors of Direct Service II Staff – Supplemental Supervisor Training: For supervisors – How to support supervisees who provide screening services

*Status:* Underway.

#### **Coordinate referrals to treatment among all AHS Departments**

- Determine the best method to ensure Departments are working together on cases that involve more than one Department

*Status:* Underway.

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**Complete regional needs assessments and plans for addressing treatment service gaps**

- The Criminal Justice Capable Core Team Work group is leading this effort and reporting back to SATC

*Status:* Underway.

**Adopt a standard definition of case management across AHS, and investigate integration with case management data system development**

*Status:* Not started.

**Develop an AHS housing plan for high need clients, particularly those being released from residential treatment or the Department of Corrections**

- SATC is receiving updates from the AHS Housing workgroup

*Status:* Underway.

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For more information on AHS training offered thru the SATC contact:

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