
ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION OF STATE AGENCY

Function of the Office of Vermont Health Access is addresses in Attachment 1.2-B.

The Department for Children and Families is one of the major components of the Agency of Human Services. Within the Department, the Economic Services Division encompasses the functions regarding Medicaid eligibility that formerly resided in the Department of Prevention, Assistance, Transition, and Health Access (formerly the Department of Social Welfare). The Department's principal functions and structure are outlined below:

Child Development

Responsible for assuring a statewide system that promotes and supports safe, accessible, quality child care for Vermont families. Responsible for administering TANF Grants to Community Agencies. Children's Upstream Services, Child Care Services, licensing, workforce development, commodities, Children's Health Programs, Parent Child Centers, Success by Six, and Head Start programs.

Child Support

Responsible for helping Vermonters establish and enforce child support court orders, locating missing parents, and ensuring the steady flow of economic support to Vermont children.

Child Welfare & Youth Justice

Responsible for promoting social, emotional, and physical well being and safety of Vermont's children and families. Responsible for providing protective, developmental, therapeutic, probation, and support services for children and families in partnership with schools, businesses, community leaders, service providers, families, and youth statewide.

Disability Determinations

Responsible for processing and evaluating disability claims. Responsible for developing medical evidence and rendering the initial determination on whether or not a claimant is or blind under the law.

Economic Services

Responsible for the monitoring, evaluation, and operation of the Reach Up/TANF, Fuel Assistance, Food and Nutrition, General and Emergency Assistance, Essential Person, Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, and Health Care Assistance programs as it pertains to eligibility determination. Responsible for reviewing and analyzing proposed, pending and finalized Federal and State legislation to assure compliance in all assistance programs.

Responsible for developing, analyzing, and interpreting rules and regulations for these programs, collecting data specific to the operation of these programs and evaluating the effects and attributes of given programs in relation to department or Agency goals and objectives.

Economic Opportunity

Responsible for increasing the self-sufficiency of Vermonters and strengthening Vermont communities by connecting communities to governmental and private resources to eliminate poverty through weatherization services, support for community-based organizations engaged anti-poverty efforts, and food and nutrition services, including nutrition education, commodity food distribution, and farmer's market food coupon distribution.

Field Services

Responsible for ensuring accountability in each geographic region of the state to ensure optimal functioning, responsible for working closely with community partnerships, private and state program managers, and individuals and families served by the agency.

Within the Agency of Human Services, the Department of Aging and Independent Living (formerly the Department of Aging and Disabilities) assists older persons, children and adults with disabilities to live as independently as possible. The Department's principal functions and structure are as follows:

Licensing & Protection

Responsible for protecting vulnerable Vermonters through licensing health care providers, and investigating complaints and allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Advocacy & Independent Living

Responsible for helping elders and adults with disabilities to live as independently as possible in the community.

Blind & Visually Impaired

Responsible for helping Vermonters with blindness or visual impairment work and live independently.

Developmental Services

Responsible for helping children and adults with developmental disabilities and children with health impairments and/or physical disabilities to live as independently as possible within their family, home and community.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Responsible for helping Vermonters with disabilities prepare for and find employment.

The Department of Health is also a large component of the Agency of Human Services. Within the Department, the responsibilities of each division are outlined below:

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs Division

Responsible for helping Vermonters prevent and eliminate the problems caused by alcohol and other drug use. In partnership with other public and private organizations, the division plans, supports and evaluates a comprehensive system that provides education, prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, and research services.

Mental Health Division

Responsible for providing services to people with a wide range of emotional, behavioral and other mental health problems. Assures timely delivery of effective prevention, early intervention, and behavioral health treatment and supports through a family-centered system of care for all children and families in Vermont. Operates the Vermont State Hospital which serves adults with serious and persistent mental illness who require a higher level of care.

Community Public Health

Responsible for providing essential health promotion and disease prevention services, working in partnership with local health care providers, voluntary agencies, schools, businesses and community organizations.

Health Protection

Responsible for the regulatory, forensic and risk assessment components of the department: including the inspection of ambulances and licensing of emergency services personnel.

Medical Practice Board

Responsible for licensing physicians and podiatrists and certifying physician assistants and anesthesiologist assistants. Investigates unprofessional conduct, issues reprimands, and revokes, suspends or places conditions on professional licenses and certifications where appropriate

The Department of Corrections, in partnership with the community, supports safe communities by providing leadership in crime prevention, repairing the harm done, addressing the needs of crime victims, ensuring offender accountability for criminal acts,

and managing the risk posed by offenders. Within the Department, responsibilities of each division are outlined below:

Administration

Responsible for central oversight and management of all divisions.

Facilities

Responsible for maintaining and operating nine incarcerative facilities and seventeen community-based facilities.

Program Services

Responsible for a variety of services to the community, the criminal justice system, and offenders. The services provided directly to the community focus on education/information, victims, and reparative support. The services provided to the criminal justice system includes housing and supervision of offenders, sentencing options/reports, and intelligence information. Treatment programs are designed to meet the needs of sex offenders, violent offenders, substance use, and domestic violence issues.

Restorative and Community Justice

Responsible for involving victims and the community as central elements in a process whereby the focus is on the offender being held accountable to the victim and community.

Placement Services

Responsible for providing offenders with assistance re-integrating into the community after a period of incarceration.

Field Services

Responsible for the ongoing supervision of offenders in the community and ensuring that offenders under supervision are in compliance with all applicable requirements and conditions of release.

The Office of the Secretary of the Agency of Human Services oversees several functions of the Agency under the direction of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary. Within the Secretary's Office, responsibilities of each division are outlined below:

Operations

The Operations Division includes the Rate Setting Unit which sets Medicaid payment rates for services provided in Vermont licensed nursing homes participating in the Medicaid program. The rates are set prospectively, based on nursing home costs which are annually reviewed by the Division's auditors for

allowability. Operations also includes the Fiscal Unit which advises the Secretary on fiscal policy and management issues, the Personnel Unit which advises the Secretary on personnel administration and the interpretation of policies and procedures, the Information Technology Unit which is responsible for executing the core technology vision to unify all Agency technology, the Training Unit which develops, implements, and evaluates agency-wide training programs, and the Internal Affairs Unit. The Secretary's Office also includes the Secretary's Senior Policy Advisor and the State Refugee Coordinator who is the state liaison with all resettlement service providers within the state.

Planning Division

Responsible for advising the Secretary on the Agency's direction, priorities, and strategic planning in program and departmental development.

The Human Services Board

The Human Services Board is a citizen's panel consisting of seven members and was created by the Vermont legislature. Its duties are to act as a fair hearing board for appeals brought by individuals who are aggrieved by decisions or policies of the various departments and programs throughout the Agency of Human Services.

Tobacco Board

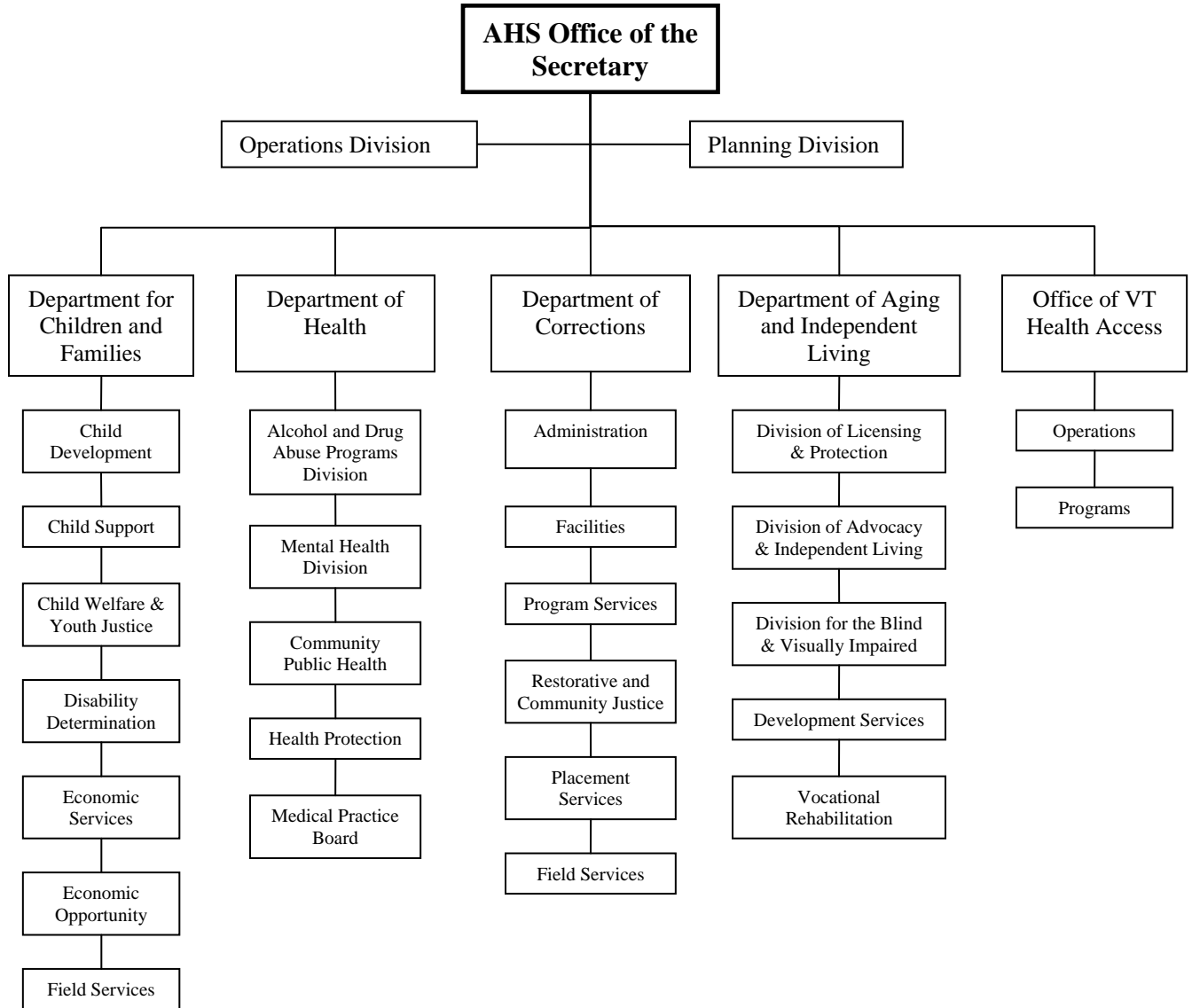
The Vermont Legislature established the Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board effective July 1, 2000 as an independent state board. It is located within, and receives administrative support front the Office of the Secretary of the Agency of Human Services. The Board works in partnership with the Agency and the Departments of Health and Education in establishing the annual budget, program criteria, and policy development, review and evaluation of the entire tobacco control program.

Developmental Disabilities Council

Responsible for supporting advocacy and improving services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. They fund activities to increase the availability of individual and family-centered supports to promote independence, self-determination and community inclusion. They work to increase public awareness of issues affecting people with disabilities and their families.

Housing/Transportation Coordinator

Responsible for the coordination of agency-wide housing and transportation initiatives and programs.



VERMONT AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

