



Supporting Vermonters to lead healthy and satisfying lives community by community



## Legislative Update for May 10, 2022

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LEGISLATURE**

*The legislative session is coming to a close. This legislative update will simply provide a brief status update on bills of interest to Vermont Care Partners and the designated and specialized service agencies because of the fast speed at which the language and status of bills change in the final days. A complete legislative wrap-up with bill summaries and key information will be issued after the session concludes.*

*The biggest news is that the Committee of Conference on the FY23 budget has basically concluded their work and decided to appropriate an 8% rate increase for designated and specialized service agencies. However, if there is a veto on the revenue and/or budget bills, the legislature will be called back into session to try to override the veto, and if unsuccessful, to negotiate to achieve resolution of outstanding differences between the executive and legislative branches of government.*

### **Status Update on Bills of interest**

- H.96** Truth and Reconciliation Commission – the House and Senate are now in concurrence
- H.655** Telehealth Licensure/registration and provisional licensure – signed into law May 9th
- H.703 – now S.11** Tuition Assistance and Loan Repayment and study of barriers for MA licensure of clinicians – In Committee of Conference
- H.711** Opioid Settlement Bill - passed by House and Senate
- H.711** Opioid Settlement Bill – Passed by House and Senate
- H.720** Developmental Disabilities Bill – Committee of Conference agreed to language and it's ready for votes in the full House and Senate
- H.740** FY23 Appropriations Bill – Committee of Conference agreed to funding and language, ready for votes in the full House and Senate
- S.195** Peer Certification Bill – Senate Health and Welfare decided to let the new limited version die as unnecessary for the ongoing work by the Department of Mental Health and peer advocates
- S.197** Inventory of crisis support programs and new school mental health grants – passed Legislature
- S.285** Health Reform Bill – The House and Senate have amended the bill and are now in concurrence

## Save the Date! Vermont Disability Awareness Day

Tuesday, May 10th - Time: 3:00 – 4:30

Ming M. Canaday - Keynote Speaker

Ming M. Canaday is the founder of Traipsin' Global On

Wheels: <https://www.traipsinglobalonwheels.com/>



### [TGOW - Traipsin' Global On Wheels](#)

At Traipsin Global On Wheels our mission is to provide resources and discussions for disability advocacy, health and fitness tips, and accessible travel tips.

[www.traipsinglobalonwheels.com](http://www.traipsinglobalonwheels.com)

In addition to her extensive coaching experience with people of diverse backgrounds and cultures, she has done speaking engagements and held workshops all around the globe to advocate and empower people with disabilities to live their best lives.

### ***Information on Your Senators and Representatives***

Follow this link to determine your legislators and access their contact information. Legislators are listed both by DA/SSA and by the Committee they serve on. Please note there are new legislators on committees that have purview over policy and funding for the Vermont Care Partners network.

[2021 Legislative Committees by DA-SSA.xlsx](#)

### ***Action Circles Calendar***

Action Circles maintains a calendar of Legislative breakfasts and events. This information can be found at: <https://www.action-circles.com/legislator-events/>

### ***To take action or for more information, including the weekly committee schedules:***

- Legislative home page: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>
- Sergeant-at-Arms Office: (802) 828-2228 or (800) 322-5616
- Legislators' email addresses may be found on the Legislature home page at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>
- Governor Phil Scott (802) 828-3333 or <http://governor.vermont.gov/>

The purpose of the legislative update is to inform individuals who are interested in developmental, mental health and substance abuse services about legislative advocacy, policy development and activities that occur in the State Legislature. The Vermont Council is a non-profit trade association which works in partnership with Vermont Care Network to form Vermont Care Partners. Together our mission is to provide statewide leadership for an integrated, high-quality system of comprehensive services and supports. Our membership consists of 16 designated developmental and mental health agencies.