

## ADVOCACY FACT SHEET

### 10% Medicaid Rate Increase Needed to address Workforce Crisis and Surge in Acuity and Demand for Community-based Mental Health, Developmental and Substance Use Services

#### DEMAND HAS NEVER BEEN HIGHER

- Our children are struggling in school after prolonged social isolation
- Over 40% of Americans are experiencing depression and/or anxiety
- Vermont's suicide rate exceeds the national average by 30% and is rising
- Vermont's alcohol, opioid, and other drug use greatly exceeds the national average
- Nearly 1,000 Vermonters are waiting for our agency mental health and substance use services
- Agency emergency services use rose from just over 7,000 in FY19 to well over 9,000 in FY21
- Children and adults, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and autism, in mental health crisis are stuck for days in hospital emergency departments
- Almost 300 people with I/DD and autism are waiting for or at risk of losing their homes

#### WORKFORCE CRISIS CONTINUES

- In FY22 33.6% of staff at VCP network agencies left their jobs
- Agency vacancy rates are hovering at 18%
- Some I/DD programs have vacancy rates as high as 50% to 60%
- Staff love their work but leave for higher pay at schools, hospitals, and other employers

#### IMPROVE FUNDING – 10% RATE INCREASED NEEDED

- Access to consistent, timely, and high-quality care requires adequate Medicaid rates that reliably keep up with health care inflation
- Since 2006 Medicaid rates for network agencies have lagged 15% behind inflation (CPI)
- After an 8% increase in FY23, staff still leave for pay raises of \$10K, \$20K, and even \$30K
- Investing in community-based care reduces demand for more expensive hospital care, improves the lives of Vermonters and strengthens our communities

*Vermont Care Partners is a statewide network of 16 nonprofit community-based agencies that provide mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disability services and supports to over 35,000 Vermonters. This system of care is funded almost entirely through state and federal Medicaid funding appropriated by the Legislature.*

#### A Statewide Network Supporting Vermonters to Lead Healthy and Satisfying Lives Community by Community

Clara Martin Center · Champlain Community Services · Counseling Service of Addison County · Families First in Southern Vermont · Green Mountain Support Services · Health Care and Rehabilitation Services · Howard Center · Lamoille County Mental Health Services · Lincoln Street Inc. · NFI Vermont Inc. · Northeast Kingdom Human Services · Northwestern Counseling & Support Services · Rutland Mental Health Services/Community Care Network · United Counseling Service of Bennington County · Upper Valley Services · Washington County Mental Health Services