

Leadership Opportunities

Organization	Type	Description	Contact Info
ACT 264 Advisory Board	Advisory Board	Nine members, including an equal number of parents, advocates, and providers. The board advises the Agency of Human Services, Agency of Education, and the Department of Mental Health on issues relating to children and adolescents with disabilities and their families.	Department of Mental Health 802-241-0090
Brain Injury Alliance of Vermont	Board Member	The Board supports the work of the organization. BIAVTs Mission is to create a better future for all Vermonters affected by brain injury through prevention, education, advocacy, and support.	https://biavt.org/advocacy/become-an-advocate/
Brattleboro Retreat	Consumer Advisory Council	This council is for consumers and advocates to ensure patients' voices are heard. The goal of the council is to address consumer concerns, advise the hospital on policy development, and fully represent consumers' voices in the Retreat's design of care.	802-258-6118
Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL)	Advisory Board	This board advises the Commissioner of DAIL regarding programs and issues affecting older persons and persons with disabilities. Members of the board are appointed by the Governor and represent the interests of older persons or persons with disabilities.	802-241-2401

Developmental Services State Program Standing Committee (DDSD)	Committee Member	This committee advises the DDSD on the performance of the developmental disabilities services system. It advises on quality issues, and service delivery, the State System of Care Plan, department policy, complaints, grievances, and appeals, and agency designation processes.	802-241-0304
DAIL: Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI)	SR Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired	The State Rehabilitation Council reviews and advises DBVI regarding the performance of their responsibilities. They review the effectiveness of services provided that may affect employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities.	1- 888-405-5005
DAIL: Governor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities	Committee Member	This committee's mission is to promote equal employment for all citizens of Vermont by advising the Governor on current issues affecting employment of people with disabilities, and through partnerships between business, government, and people with disabilities.	Rose Lucenti, GCEPD Chair, rose.lucenti@gmail.com
DAIL: The Vermont Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind (D/HH/DB) Advisory Council	Council Member	The council strives to improve the lives of all Vermonters who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deafblind by recommending policy that promotes diversity, equality, awareness, and access. They to make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor's office to shape quality improvement initiatives and policy implementation.	802-241-2401
Department of Vermont Health Access Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee	Advisory Committee	DVHA is committed to improving the health and well-being of Vermonters by providing access to quality, cost-effective health care. The Advisory Committee is federally required to have an opportunity to participate in policy development and program administration.	jennifer.rotblat@vermont.gov 802-879-5900, option 9.

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)	Council Member	The Council is comprised of people with developmental disabilities and family members. Members work together to promote policies and practices that improve the lives of Vermonters with developmental disabilities and their families.	802-828-1310 888-317-2006 vtddc@vermont.gov
Green Mountain Self-Advocates	GMSA Board of Directors	GMSA is for people with developmental disabilities. They are building a movement for self-advocacy in Vermont through public education, peer mentoring and support, advocacy, and direct action.	802-229-2600 800-564-9990
Hireability Youth Advocacy Council	Advocacy Council	For youth and young adults with disabilities interested in leadership training and with having an impact on how Vermont prepares students for life after high school. A supportive steering committee, with youth advocacy partners, facilitates the council.	866-879-6757
Howard Center: Family Advisory Council	Family Advisory Council (FAC)	The FAC meets regularly to provide input into programs and services for children and families. It is comprised of family members whose children are receiving services (or have in the past) and HC staff/board. Families advocate for service delivery improvement, connect with other families, and build relationships with HC Staff and Board.	Sarah Bolton at SBolton@howardcenter.org or 802-488-6706.
Local Program Standing Committees at Designated Mental Health Agencies (Statewide)	*Committee Member	Standing Committees serve as an advisory body to the Designated Mental Health Agency (DA). Committees must have individuals with lived experience and/or family members of those with lived experience as 51% of their membership. Responsibilities include hiring of key management, evaluation of quality, Local System of Care Plan development, review and recommendation of agency policy, and grievance and appeal resolution.	https://ddsd.vermont.gov/designated-agencies-listed-countyregion *Contact your local DA directly for information!

<u>Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness</u>	Advisory Council	The PAIMI Advisory Council advises Disability Rights Vermont on policies and priorities to be carried out in protecting and advocating the rights of individuals with mental illness. It is comprised of mental health consumers, family members, attorneys, professional and others.	https://disabilityrightsvt.org/about/paimi-council/
<u>UVM Autism Collaborative</u>	Member	The UVM Autism Collaborative is a group of autistics, families, caregivers, researchers and clinicians working together to improve the quality of life for autistic people everywhere.	https://www.uvm.edu/cess/cdci/become-member-uvm-autism-collaborative
<u>UVM Center on Disability and Community Inclusion</u>	Advisory Council	The Council provides feedback on disability issues in VT to CDCI leadership on the work they do and the work they should be doing. It is made up people with disabilities, their family members, or professionals in the field.	https://www.uvm.edu/cess/cdci/cdci-community-advisory-council-overview
<u>University of Vermont Medical Center Patient and Family Advisory Council</u>	Patient and Family Advisors (PFAC)	Advisors bring patient perspective to policies, programs, facility design, operations, and education at UVMMC to improve safety, delivery of care, and patient and staff satisfaction. The patient and family advisors are key to promoting patient- and family-centered care concepts and practices.	https://www.uvmhealth.org/medcenter/patients-and-visitors/patients/patient-and-family-advisors

Vermont Agency of Education Special Education Advisory Panel	Panel Member	The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that each state establish and maintain an advisory panel for the purpose of advising the State special education staff. The SEAP can have up to 37 members, the majority who are individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.	https://education.vermont.gov/state-board-councils/special-education-advisory-panel
Vermont Autism Task Force (VATF)	Committee Member	This non-governmental, grassroots committee of volunteers seeks to improve services and supports for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families. The committee is comprised of autistic adults, parents/family members of those with ASD, professionals who serve, and interested community members.	http://vtautismtaskforce.org/contact/
Vermont Center for Independent Living	Board of Directors	VCIL is a non-profit directed and staffed by people with disabilities. They work to promote the dignity, independence, and civil rights of Vermonters with disabilities.	https://vcil.org/board/
Vermont Family Network (VFN)	Board Member	VFN seeks to empower and support all Vermont children, youth, and families, especially those with disabilities or special health needs. The VFN Board works closely with the Executive Director and leadership to provide input about VFN services. The Board members include parents of children and youth with disabilities and professionals.	802-876-5315 info@vtfn.org
VFN: Advocacy and Policy Committee	Advocacy and Policy Committee	VFN's advocacy program works alongside families and partners to educate decision-makers. Committee members share their voice around their lived experiences and strengthen their message to help make needed change to better support families with children who have disabilities or special health needs.	802-876-5315 info@vtfn.org

VFN: Family Faculty	Family Faculty Member	VFN is always looking for families of children with special health care needs who live in Chittenden County to join their Family Faculty. Family Faculty members share their own perspective through their family story with UVM graduate and medical students through Parent Panels, the Medical Education Project, the Professionalism-Communication-Reflection Class and Vermont LEND.	802-876-5315 info@vtfn.org
Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (VFF)	Board Member	VFF serves families of children, youth, and young adults experiencing or at risk of experiencing emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges, as well as families in which a parent has a disability. The Board is comprised of family members/parents and youth/young adults to oversee the work of the Federation.	802-876-7021 800-639-6071
Vermont Foster and Adoptive Family Association	District Representative	A District Representative is a liaison between VFAPA and their local district foster parent association/district. Their Mission is to empower, support, and unify foster and adoptive families by strengthening the systems that care for Vermont's children.	https://vfafa.org/district-representatives
Vermont Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC)	Advisory Council	The council is made up of parents and caregivers of children who receive Children's Integrated Services (CIS), and professionals who want to improve services for Vermont children.	CIS Family Engagement Coordinator 802-760-9416 hilary.watson@vermont.gov

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) Advisory Committee	Advisory Committee	This committee includes interested community members and representatives from Disability Rights Vermont, VT Psychiatric Survivors, NAMI VT, Department of Mental Health, and the VPCH CEO. Committee members engage in dialogue with the Commissioner of DMH and hospital leadership, provide feedback and advice, and serve on committees.	802-241-0090
Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council	Council Member	The VT SILC is an autonomous organization that represents the disability community in the state of Vermont. Its charge is to promote the principles of the Independent Living Movement and advocate for every Vermont resident living with a disability from a systems level.	https://vermontsilc.org/join-silc/
Vermont Special Education Advisory Panel	Advisory Panel	This advisory panel advises the Agency of Education regarding the education of eligible children with disabilities. It consists of up to 37 members, appointed by the Governor. Most panel members are individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.	802-828-1256 AOE.SpecialEd@vermont.gov
Other Advocacy Organizations to Know About		Description	Contact Info
CVOEO Housing Justice		Housing is a basic human right and everyone deserves equitable access to safe, accessible, and stable homes, free from discrimination.	https://www.cvoeo.org/get-involved/housing-justice
Let's Grow Kids Vermont Action Center		One-stop-shop for tools and resources to become a champion for Vermont's children. LGK are Vermonters working to drive policy change in our communities, so all children and families have access to the high-quality childcare they need.	https://letsgrowkidsactionnetwork.org/action-center

<u>Rights and Democracy Vermont</u>		<p>RAD's Vision: We believe we can achieve a society where people earn a livable wage and have access to affordable health care, and where a progressive and equitable tax system supports an economy that protects the environment and human rights.</p>	https://radmovement.org/about/
<u>Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition</u>		<p>VAHC is a coalition of over 90 members who work together to increase access to safe, decent, affordable housing in Vermont. Focus is on education, advocacy, and outreach. Members include non-profits, community land trusts, advocacy groups, public housing authorities, regional planners, state agencies and others.</p>	https://www.vtaffordablehousing.org/
<u>Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights</u>		<p>The mission of VCDR is to advance the human and civil rights of people with disabilities to ensure full and equal participation in all aspects of community life and the political process. VCDR is building a grass-roots campaign to involve more Vermonters who experience a physical, sensory, psychiatric, developmental or other disability, and their families, in our work.</p>	https://vcdr.org/about-vcdr/ To sign up for VCDR Alerts: vcdrvt@gmail.com
<u>Vermont Parent Child Center Network</u>		<p>Supporting Vermont's Parent Child Centers through leadership, advocacy, and collaboration with key partners to achieve the best outcomes for families. Parent Child Centers deliver critical and essential state services to families with young children.</p>	https://vtparentchildcenternetwork.org/advocacy/