



VERMONT

# Blueprint for Health

Smart choices. Powerful tools.



*PRESENTED BY:  
ENTER NAME OF PRESENTER*

# AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

*The AHS Central Office, or  
“The Secretary’s Office”  
Office of Health Care Reform*

Lead by Jenney Samuelson, Secretary of the  
Agency of Human Services

Responsible for establishing and supporting the administration of  
policy, practice, fiscal, and operations across the Departments and  
District Offices

Ensures holistic, consistent, and reliable service delivery to Vermonters.  
Departments: DAIL DCF DOC DMH DVHA VDH



# BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

## WATERBURY, VERMONT

DR. JOHN SAROYAN  
Executive Director

JULIE PARKER  
Assistant Director

MARA KRAUSE  
DONOHUE  
Assistant Director

DR. ADDIE  
ARMSTRONG  
Data Analytics and  
Info Administrator

JENNIFER HERWOOD  
Payment Operations  
Administrator

CALEB DENTON  
Data Analytics and Info  
Administrator

ERIN JUST  
Quality Improvement  
Coordinator

DR. MONIQUE  
THOMPSON  
Specialty QI Facilitator

KARA HOOPER  
Project Administrator

DR. MEREDITH  
MILLIGAN  
Physician Clinical  
Consultant

# EARLY HISTORY OF BLUEPRINT

**2011**

Act 128 shifts the Blueprint from a pilot to a statewide program

**2010**

Vermont is one of the eight states selected for CMS Multi-Payer Advanced Primary Care Practice Demonstration

**2008**

First pilot site: St. Johnsbury HSA

**2007**

ACT 71 establishes Medical Home and Community Health Teams

**2006**

Blueprint for Health codified into Vermont statute

# EXPANSION OF BLUEPRINT

**2023/2024**

Practices attest and receive funding to be part of the CHT Expansion; staff hired to support mental health and substance use treatment and social drivers of health; integrate DULCE and develop pediatric model.

**2023**

Legislature approved funding for a Blueprint for a two-year Health Community Health Team Expansion Pilot

**2022**

Act 167 Requires recommendation on the amount to increase commercial insurer and Medicaid contributions to Community Health Teams and Quality Improvement Facilitation

**2017**

Pregnancy Intention Initiative (PII), formerly Women’s Health Initiative (WHI)

**2013**

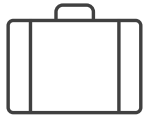
Hub and Spoke program for Opioid Treatment and Office Based Opioid Treatment

## ACT 128

*“integrating a system of health care for patients, improving the health of the overall population, and improving control over health care costs by promoting health maintenance, prevention, and care coordination and management.”*

*2010 Vermont Statutory Framework  
Act 128 Mission of Blueprint For Health*

# BLUEPRINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



## PROVIDE

high-level multi-stakeholder guidance on complex issues



## ADVISE

the Blueprint Director on strategic planning and implementation of health services with an emphasis on prevention



## REPRESENT

a broad range of stakeholders  
*(health services, insurers, professional organizations, community & nonprofit groups, consumers, businesses, and state & local government)*



## COMMITTEE MAKEUP

AHS Members,  
Commissioner of MH,  
Private Health Insurers,  
Home Health,  
Self-Insured Employers,  
etc...

*Full list available in Blueprint Manual*

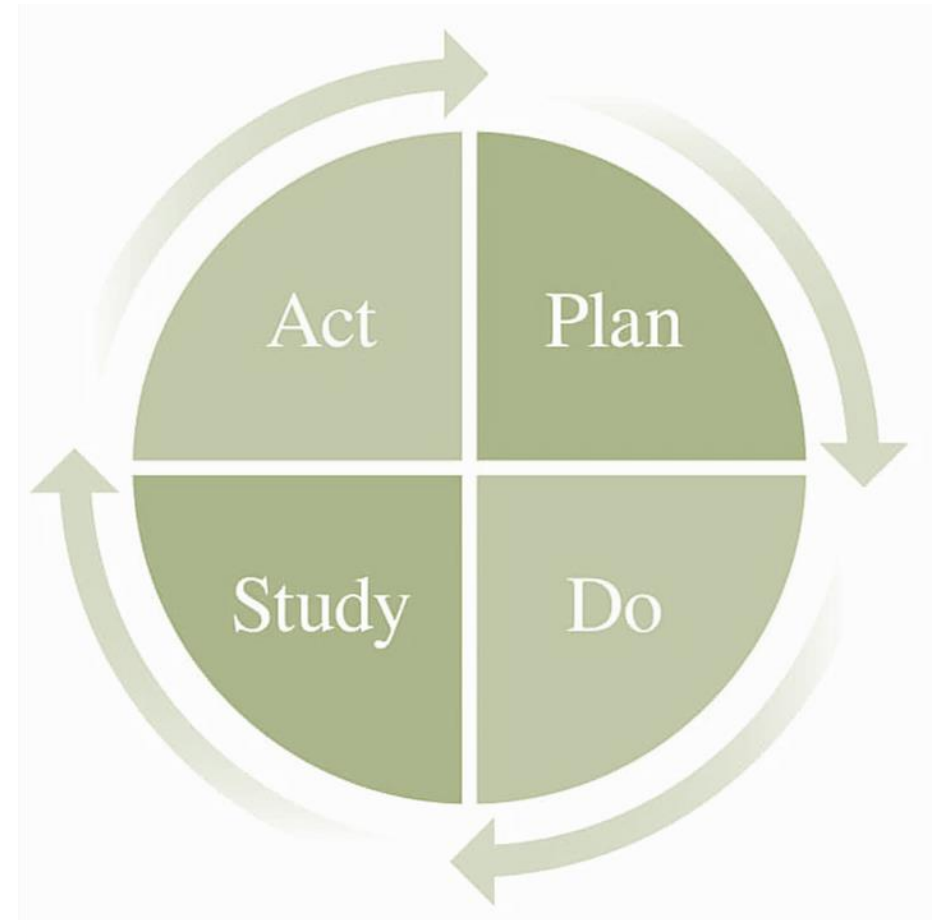
## PATIENT CENTERED MEDICAL HOMES (PCMH)

A model of primary care delivery that seeks to provide accessible, comprehensive, whole-person-centered care in a coordinated and team-based fashion; typically allows for the provision of preventive care, acute and chronic disease management, and mental health care within a single setting

- Improved clinical outcomes
- Increased patient engagement in follow-up and treatment, and
- Decreased utilization of the emergency department in many studies

Must achieve and sustain recognition as a PCMH from the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA)

Copy of Standards: <http://www.ncqa.org>





# THE BLUEPRINT MODEL

## IMPROVE POPULATION HEALTH

- Screening for Social Drivers of Health
- Support patient to manage Chronic Health Conditions

## ENHANCE PATIENT EXPERIENCE

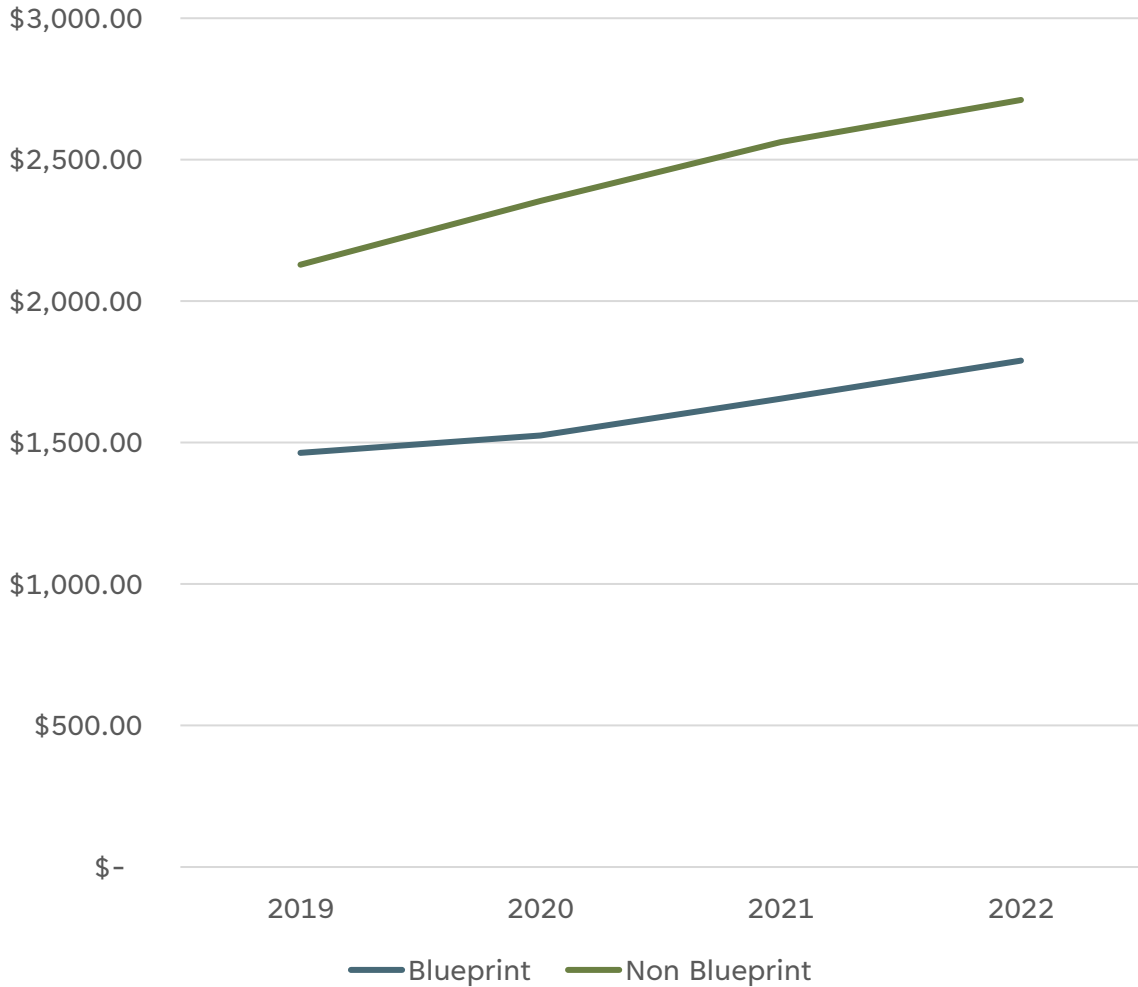
- Improve quality of care
- Ease access
- Reduce cost

# BLUEPRINT-ASSOCIATED COST SAVINGS

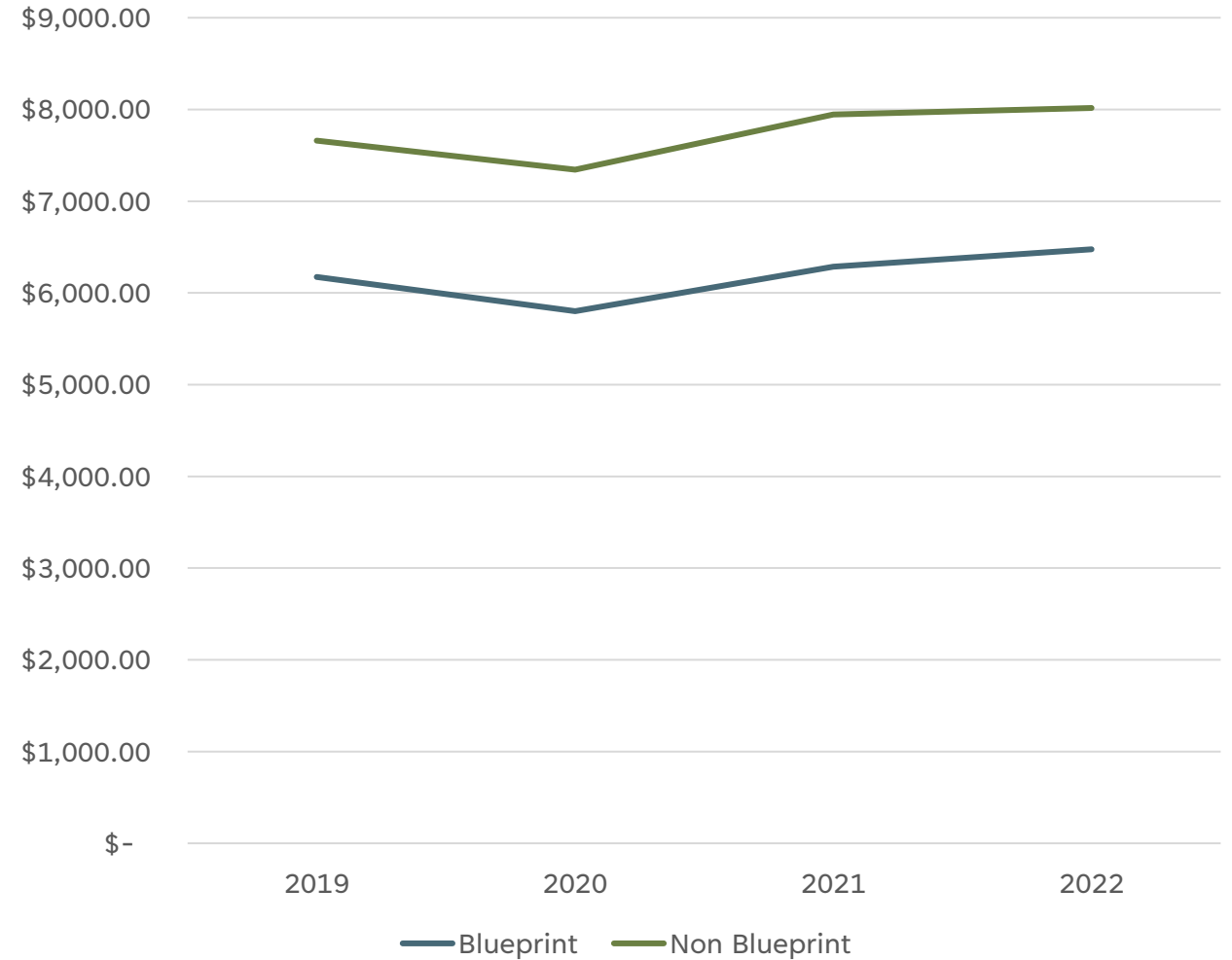
The 2017 Multi-Payer Advanced Primary Care Practice (MAPCP) demonstration report revealed significant cost savings from Blueprint for Health programming (patient-centered medical homes, community health teams, and support and services at home) across 14 quarters.

Data published by Jones et al. in 2016 identified significant cost savings associated with Blueprint participation over a 6-year period.

### Pharmacy Claims Per Member



### Medical Claims Per Member



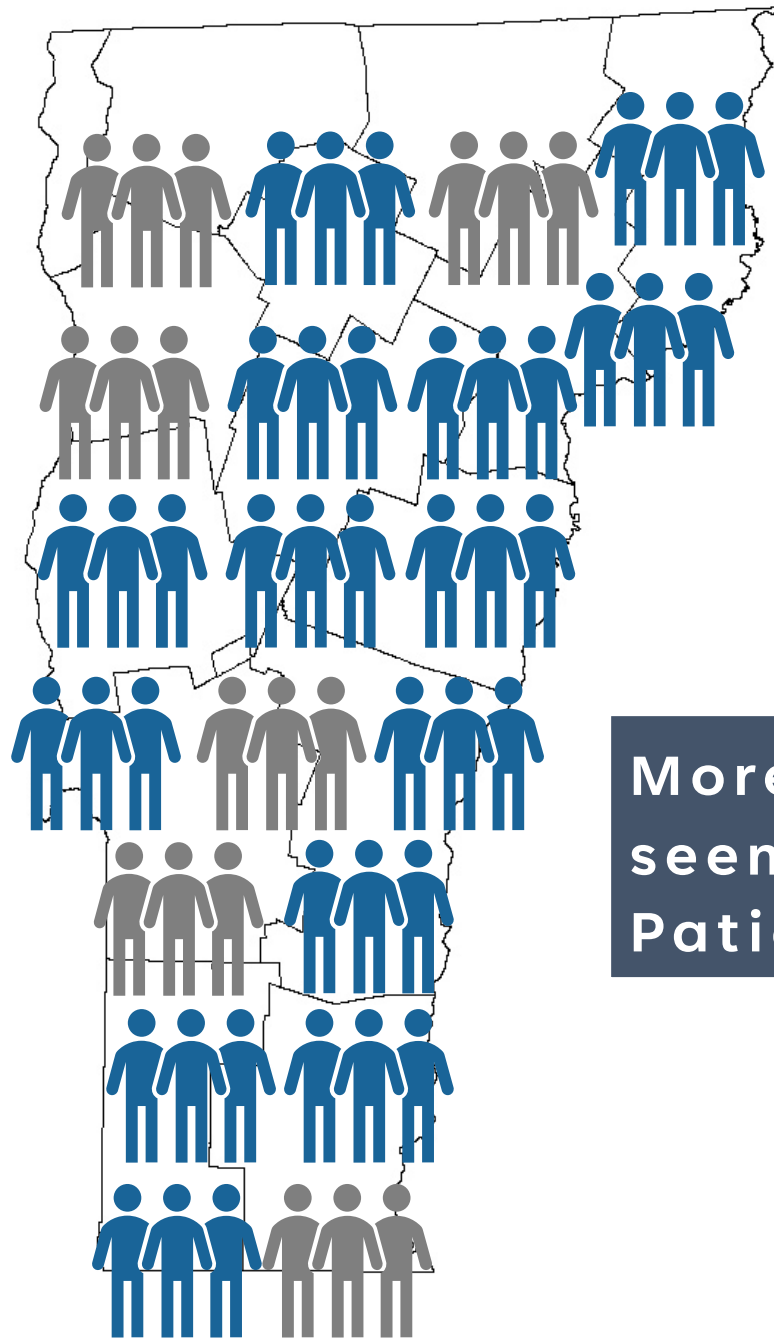
Dataset represents claims filed during these fiscal years that were reported to the VHCURES all payer claims database.

## BLUEPRINT-ASSOCIATED OUTCOME IMPROVEMENTS

In a 2014 mixed methods evaluation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the community health team (CHT) model in St. Johnsbury, Vermont was associated with:

- Increased efficiency within primary care
- Improved patient wellbeing
- Increased patient adherence to treatment and attention to health

# BLUEPRINT PRACTICE PATIENTS



More than **70%** of Vermonters are seen in a Blueprint-supported Patient-Centered Medical Home.

# HEALTH SERVICE AREAS

**\*BARRE:** Central Vermont Medical Center

**BENNINGTON:** SVMC Southern Vermont Medical Center

**\*BRATTLEBORO:** Brattleboro Memorial Hospital

**\*\*BURLINGTON:** University Vermont Medical Center

**MIDDLEBURY:** Porter Medical Center

**MORRISVILLE:** Lamoille Health Partners

**NEWPORT:** North Country Hospital

**RANDOLPH:** Gifford Medical

**\*RUTLAND:** Rutland Regional Medical Center

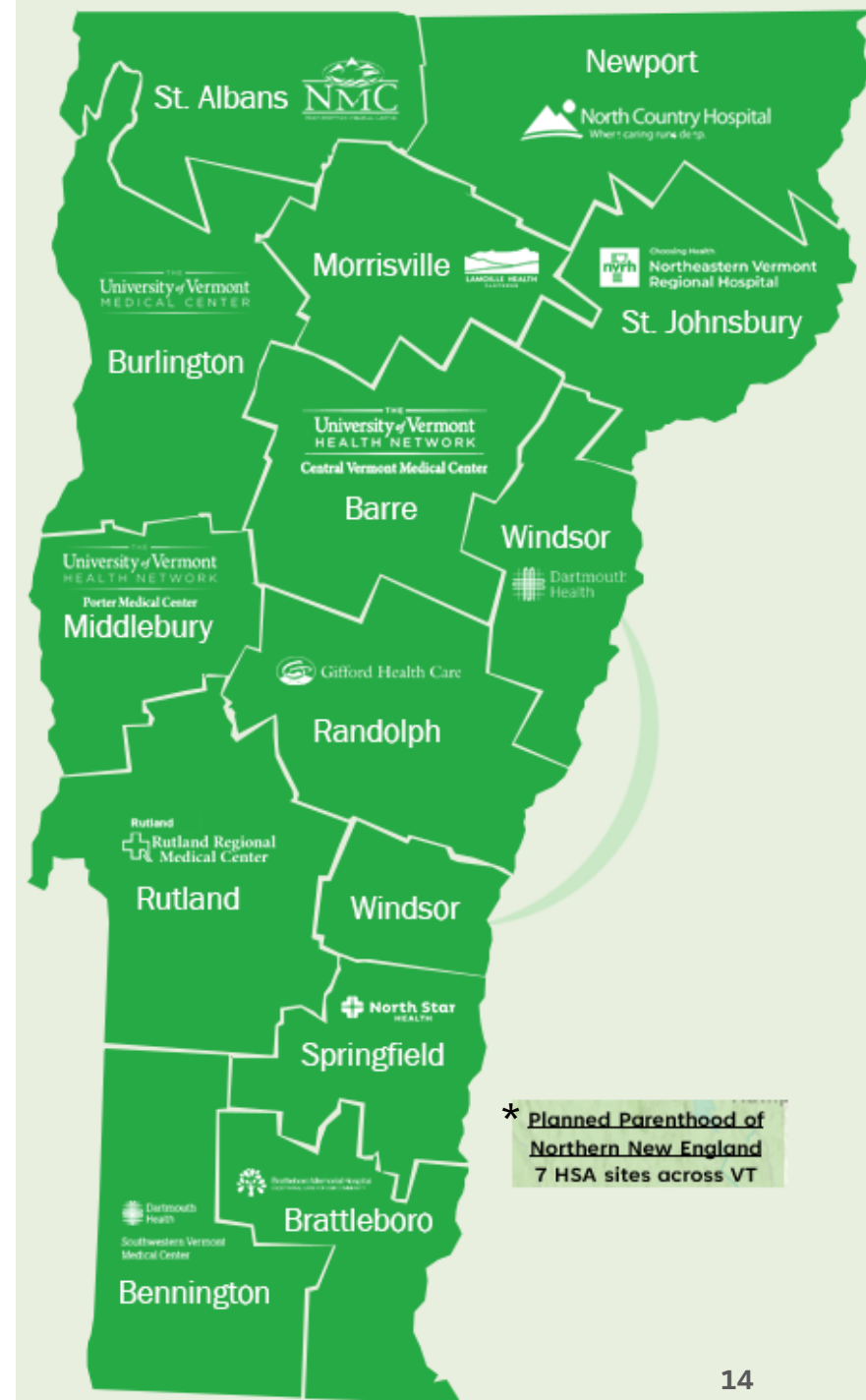
**SPRINGFIELD:** North Star Health

**ST. ALBANS:** NMC Northwestern Medical center

**\*ST. JOHNSBURY:** NVRH Northern Vermont Regional Hospital

**\*WINDSOR:** MAHHC Mt Ascutney Hospital and health Center

- will receive multi-insurer payments to support hiring of Community Health Teams
- must be Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) eligible providers



# PROGRAM MANAGERS IN EACH HSA



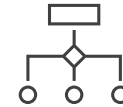
## FUNDED BY

annual grant signed  
for salary of a  
Quality Improvement  
Facilitator  
*(in some HSAs)*



## REPORTS

primarily responsible  
for data collection,  
entry and completion



## OVERSIGHT

administers CHT  
funds/staffing



## COMMUNITY

collaborates and  
assists staff of  
PCMHs within the  
Health Service Area

## Patient-Centered Medical Homes

130 Practices/Organizations

Must achieve and sustain recognition as a PCMH from the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) Quality Improvement Facilitation

## Community Health Team

Core Community Health Team

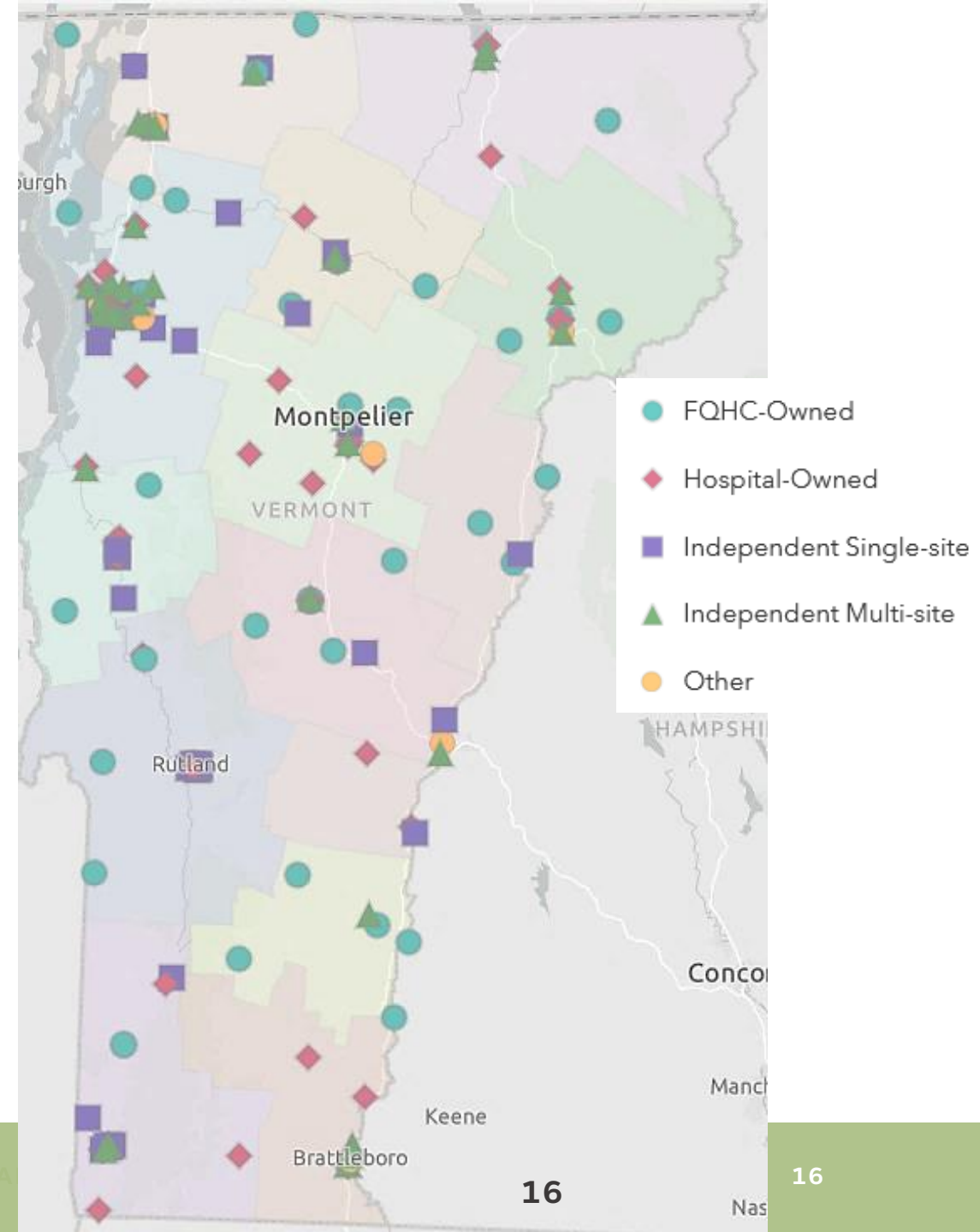
Pregnancy Intention Initiative

Self Management

Hub & Spoke system of Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

CHT Expansion

Population data and analytics for policy makers and communities





# PATIENT CENTERED MEDICAL HOMES (PCMH)

## ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

Practices/Organizations annually pay a fee and register in a system called Q-PASS

## NATIONAL STANDARDS

Must achieve and sustain recognition as a PCMH from the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA)

*Copy of Standards: <http://www.ncqa.org>*

“KM”

Knowing and  
Managing  
Patients

“AC”

Patient  
Centered  
Access and  
Community

“CM”

Care  
Management  
and Support

“CC”

Care  
Coordination  
and Care  
Transition

“QI”

Quality  
Improvement  
and  
Performance  
Management



# QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FACILITATORS

## ADOPT

### Models of Care

- Patient Centered Medical Home
- Integrated Mental Health and Substance Use Care
- Community Collaboratives/Accountable Communities for Health

### Best-Practices

- Population Health Management
- Team Based Care

## IMPROVE

Clinical, experience, or cost priorities  
(identified by the practice or external entity)

## SUPPORT

- Population Health and Payment Reform Efforts
- Community and Organizational Quality Priorities
- NCQA Recognition
- Continuous Quality Improvement Capacity

## PATIENT CENTERED MEDICAL HOME AFFILIATION TYPE

AFFILIATION TYPE	BP PRACTICE COUNT
FQHC-Owned	48
Hospital-Owned	42
Independent Multi-Site	13
Independent Single-Site	27
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>130</b>

# PCMH PAYMENTS

PER MEMBER PER MONTH (PMPM)

PAID BY COMMERCIAL AND MEDICAID

## QUALITY MEASURE OUTCOMES – COMMUNITY & HSA PERFORMANCE PAYMENT

### BASE PAYMENT

\$3.00

Commercial

\$4.65

Medicaid

\$2.15

Medicare

PAID BY COMMERCIAL AND MEDICAID

### PATIENT HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION – PRACTICE PERFORMANCE PAYMENT

UP TO \$0.25

Captures the number of services and their relative weight based on resources using their Resource Use Index (RUI) score, without price variation

UP TO \$0.25

Measures affected by community, social, and environmental factors

- % of adolescents with an annual well-care visit (HEDIS AWC);
- % of children up to 3 years of age who have had a developmental screening (NQF 1448);
- % of individuals with hypertension in control (NQF 0018);
- % of individuals with diabetes in poor control (HgA1c > 9) (NQF 0059).

## BLUEPRINT PATIENT CENTERED MEDICAL HOME MONTHLY PAYMENTS PAID TO THE PRACTICE

PAYER	ATTRIBUTED PATIENT POPULATION PROVIDED BY PAYERS	PCMH PRACTICE BASE PAYMENT RATE (PER PATIENT PER MONTH)	PCMH PRACTICE PERFORMANCE PAYMENT RATE (PER PATIENT PER MONTH)	TOTAL PAID TO PRACTICE
Commercial Insurers <b>CIGNA</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>\$0.32</b>	<b>\$66.40</b>
Commercial Insurers <b>BCBS</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>\$0.32</b>	<b>\$1,328.00</b>
Commercial Insurers <b>MVP</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>\$0.32</b>	<b>\$199.20</b>
<b>Medicaid</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>\$4.65</b>	<b>\$0.32</b>	<b>\$3,976.00</b>
<b>Medicare</b>	<b>1020</b>	<b>\$2.15</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,091.00</b>
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>2300</b>			<b>\$7,660.60</b>



# COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM

## SUPPORT PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

- identifying root causes of health problems
- including mental health
- screening for social drivers of health
- team based care

## CONNECT PATIENTS

- effective interventions
- support to manage chronic conditions
- provide additional opportunities to support improved well-being by engaging in team-based care

# FUNDED COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM



HEALTH  
EDUCATION



MENTAL  
HEALTH AND  
SUBSTANCE  
PATIENT CARE



FAMILY  
SPECIALIST



CARE MANAGERS/  
COORDINATORS



PANEL  
MANAGERS



NUTRITION  
SUPPORT



COMMUNITY  
HEALTH WORKERS

# COMMUNITY IS A WHOLE HEALTH TEAM



FOOD  
SHELF



HOME  
HEALTH



PEERS



HOUSING



DESIGNATED  
MENTAL HEALTH  
AGENCIES



VERMONT  
CHRONIC CARE  
INITIATIVE



AND MANY  
MORE...



HEALTH SERVICE AREAS RECEIVE FUNDS FROM INSURERS FOR STAFFING A

## COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM

CHT Capacity Investment aids Vermonters

- greater access
- multi-disciplinary
- medical and social services

## PER MEMBER PER MONTH

\$2.77	Commercial WHI: \$0.00 MOUD: \$0.00
\$2.77	Medicaid
\$2.68	Medicare

## CHT STAFFING MODELS

- Money for hiring staff sent directly to practices through Administrative Entity
- OR
- or contract with another entity such as local Designated Agency

## CHT PAYMENTS:



# BLUEPRINT CORE COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM QUARTERLY PAYMENTS MADE TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY

PAYER	ATTRIBUTED PATIENT POPULATION PROVIDED BY PAYERS	COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM STAFFING PAYMENT RATE (PER PATIENT PER MONTH)	TOTAL PAID TO ADMIN ENTITY
Commercial Insurers <b>CIGNA</b>	65	\$2.77	\$544.00
Commercial Insurers <b>BCBS</b>	4064	\$2.77	\$33,774.92
Commercial Insurers <b>MVP</b>	689	\$2.77	\$5,725.74
<b>Medicaid</b>	4,340	\$2.77	\$36,066.36
<b>Medicare</b>	3,708	\$2.68 <small>(+\$0.31 to risk-bearing providers in the Medicare ACO)</small>	\$30,954.00
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>12,866</b>		<b>\$107,065.02</b>

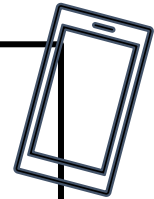
# SUPPORTING PREGNANCY INTENTION AND HEALTHY FAMILIES

## COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY PLANNING COUNSELING



- Increased access to preconception counseling has been shown to improve maternal and infant outcomes. **\*One Key Question\***
- Increased access to contraceptive counseling has been shown to be an effective intervention for reducing the rate of unintended pregnancies
- Same day access to long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) and/or moderate to most effective contraception
- Funded only by Medicaid currently

## PSYCHOSOCIAL SCREENING, INTERVENTION, AND NAVIGATION TO SERVICES

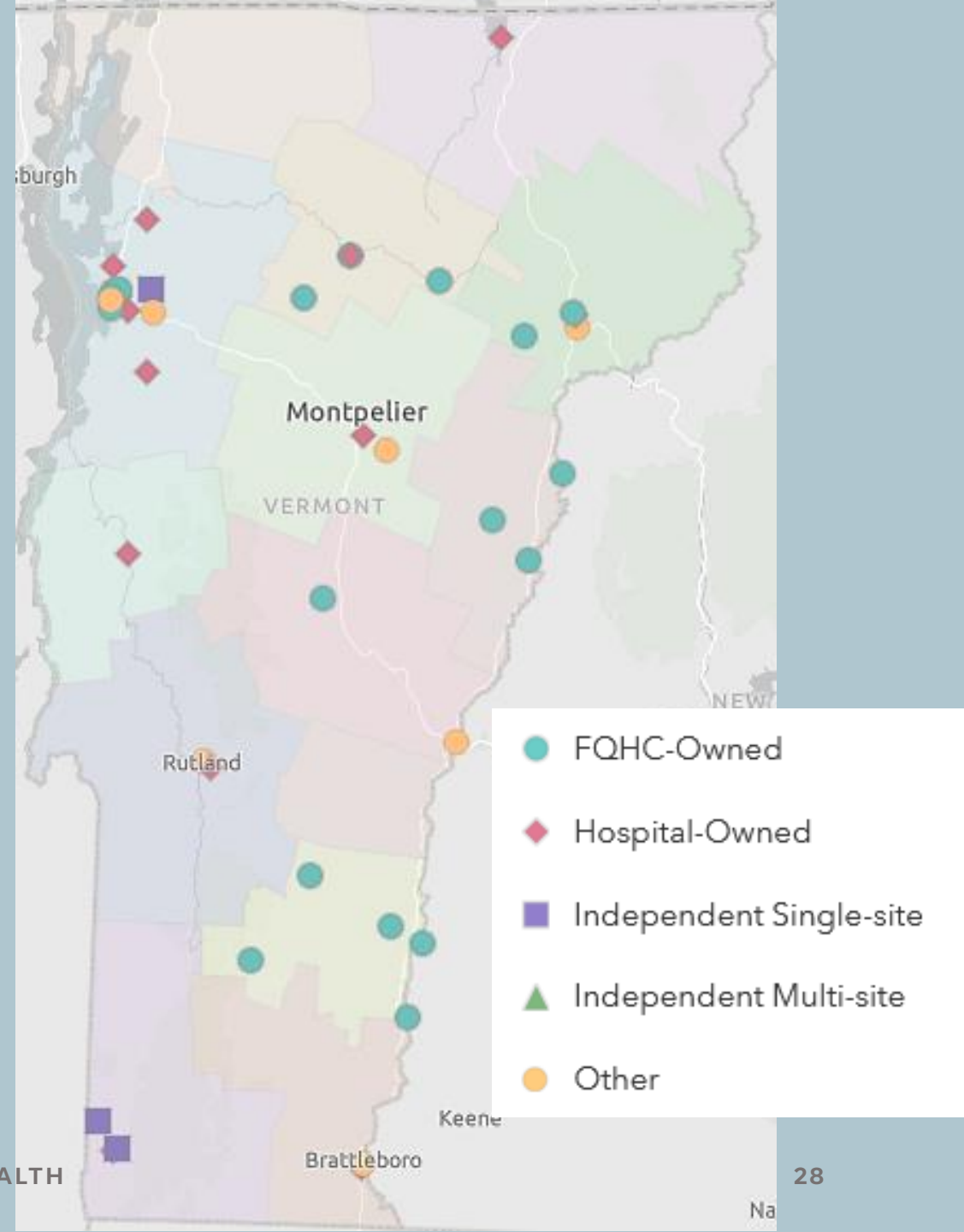


- Enhanced screening that includes **Social Drivers of Health**
- Brief intervention and referral/navigation to treatment and services
- Care coordination agreements with Primary Care/Community Partners

# PREGNANCY INTENTION INITIATIVE SITES FUNDING

## PAYMENT:

- Based on number of Medicaid patients ages 15-44 who had a qualifying claim
- Funding to support hiring a licensed counselor at Specialty Practices
- Utilize current CHT at PCMH
- PMPM \$1.25 to support administering the program



# SELF-MANAGEMENT



## SUPPORT ACROSS THE STATE

- provided by grant agreements between the Department of Health and administrative entities
- takes advantage of the additional funding and content expertise that exists within Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- pairs it with the Blueprint's influence at the local level

## MYHEALTHYVT.ORG

### *FREE WORKSHOPS*

- Blood Pressure Management
- Chronic Disease Management
- Chronic Pain Management
- Diabetes Self-Management Program
- Diabetes Prevention Program
- Quit Smoking

# HUB AND SPOKE PROGRAM

EST. 2013

## HUBS

9 PROGRAM SITES

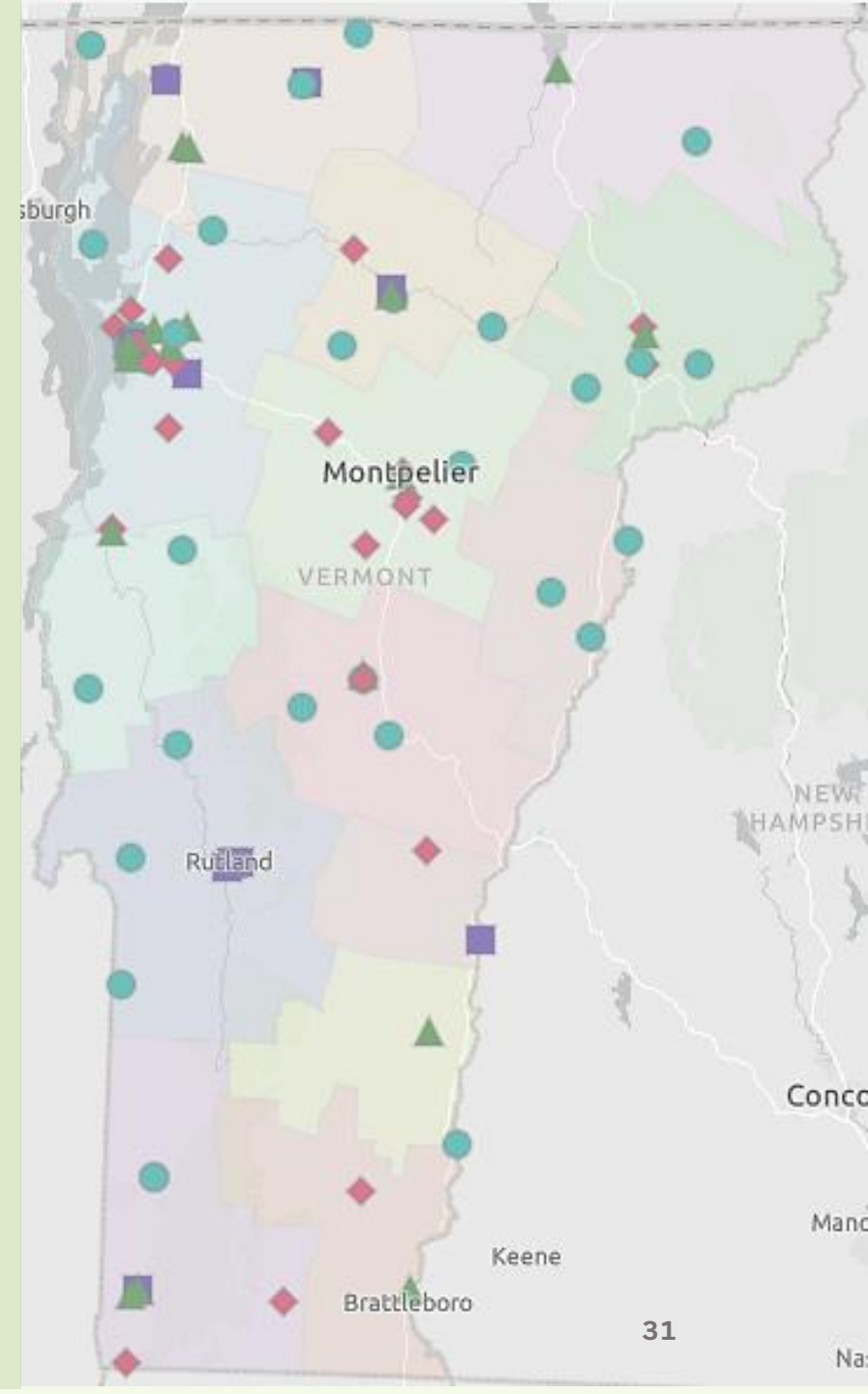
- Enhanced OTPs (Opioid Treatment Programs)
- Dispense Buprenorphine & Vivitrol addition to Methadone
- Augment staffing for health home services (care managers, counselors, nurses, and psychiatry)
- Monthly bundled rate

## SPOKES

91 PROGRAM SITES

- Enhanced OBOTs (Office Based Opioid Treatment)
  - 1 FTE RN & 1 FTE Licensed Addictions/Mental Health Counselor for 100 Medicaid Members provide health home services. (Claims based on Buprenorphine/Vivitrol Medicaid prescriptions)
  - Hired and deployed as part of Blueprint CHT though the administrative entity
- Patients move between Hubs and Spokes based on their clinical needs
  - Hubs and Spokes provide mutual support in conjunction with PCP
  - RAM (Rapid Access to Medication)

2024



## ACT 167

*“On or before January 15, 2023, the Director of Health Care Reform in the Agency of Human Services shall recommend ... the amounts by which health insurers and Vermont Medicaid should **increase the amount of the per-person, per month payments** they make toward the shared costs of operating the **Blueprint for Health community health teams** ... in furtherance of the goal of providing additional resources necessary... to **sustain access** to primary care services in Vermont.*

*The Agency shall also provide an **estimate of the State funding** that would be needed to support the increase for Medicaid, both with and without federal financial participation.”*

S 285, 2021 - 2022

*“...for a two-year pilot to expand the Blueprint for Health... program. Funds shall be used to expand the substances covered by the program, include mental health and pediatric screenings, and make strategic investments with community partners;”*

Act No. 78, 2023

## NEED FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM (CHT) EXPANSION

- Increase the number of Community Health Workers, counselors, and social workers
- Balance existing workload with more support for mental health and substance use concerns
- Create consistent funding for evidence-based program, DULCE

**1 IN 5** Americans experience mental illness

Each Year:

- **1 IN 20** Americans experience serious mental illness
- **5% TO 15%** of adolescents and adults experience a substance use disorder

Vermont has the highest rate of suicide death in New England, and the 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation as of 2020.

[National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention](#)

[Statistics from National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)\\*](#)



# COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM EXPANSION WORKGROUP DEVELOPMENT

## YEAR 1 GOALS

### PROGRAM DESIGN

Screening  
Referral workflow

- Social Drivers of Health
- Childhood developmental screenings
- Mental Health/Substance use
- Housing
- Inter-partner violence

### MEASUREMENT & EVALUATION

Outcome measures  
Data collection processes

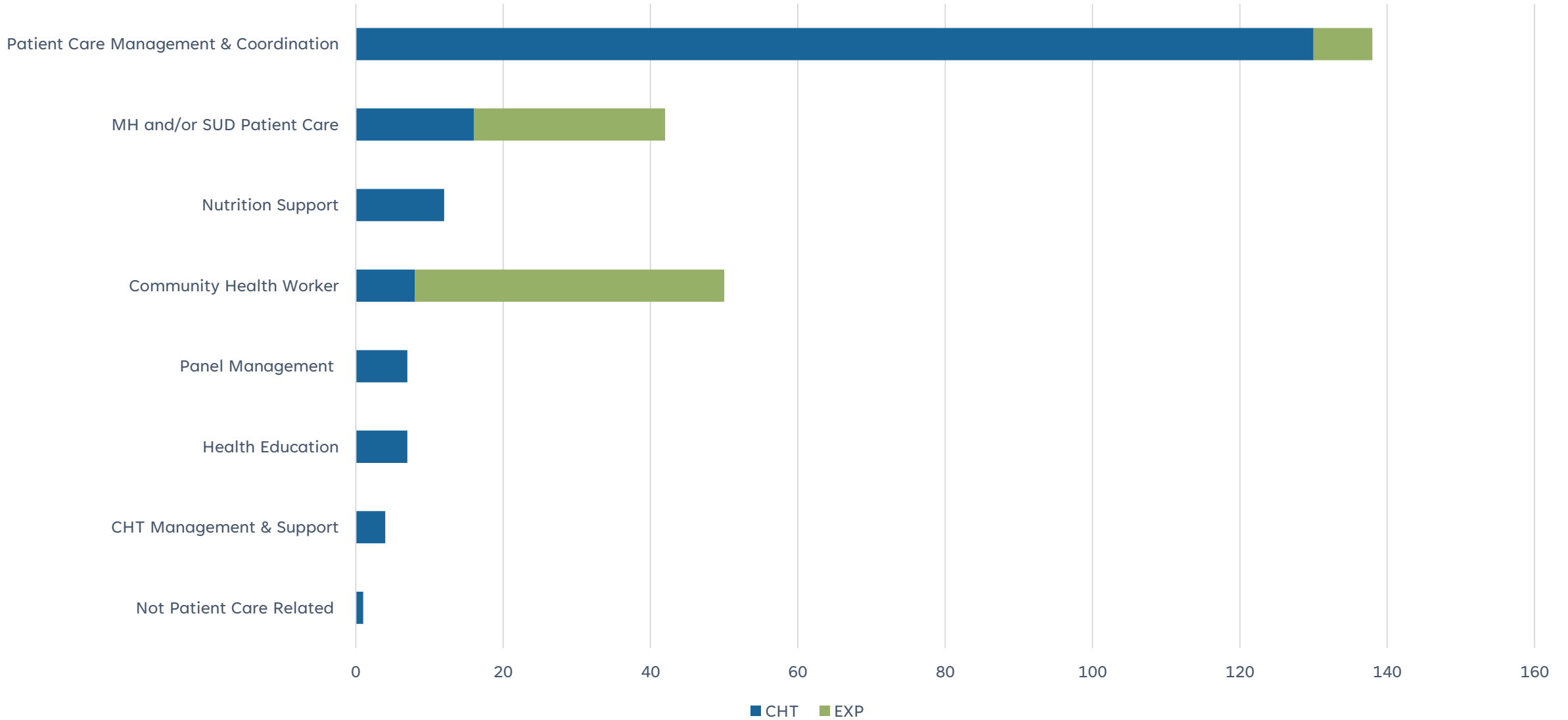
- Year 1 chart review
- Staffing increase

### PAYMENT

Review of current funding mechanisms  
Evolution of new payment methods

- Payments to enhance staffing
- Staffing recommendation guide
- Medicaid investment only but staff serves all
- Attestation to goals of program

# Community Health Team Staff Count, Before & After Expansion July 2024



# CHT CHART REVIEW SNAPSHOT

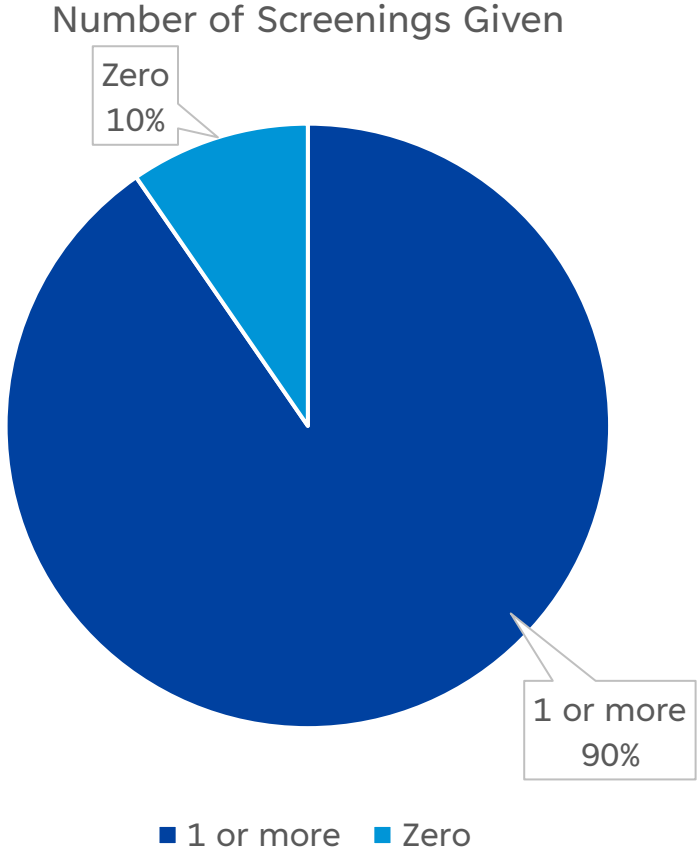
The **CHT Expansion Pilot** included an opportunity for a detailed chart review by Blueprint Quality Improvement Facilitators.

**QI Facilitators** conducted a chart review at Blueprint practices in October and November of 2023.

The work reviewed **530 charts** for CHT encounters during the previous quarter and resulted in 520 usable data entries.

This chart review provides an opportunity **to understand and analyze** the work CHTs are doing across the state.

# CHT SCREENINGS GIVEN



Screening Type	% Screened
Mental Health	78.7%
Substance Use - Other	78.7%
Substance Use - Alcohol	62.6%
Food Security	50.4%
Housing Insecurity	46.2%
Substance Use - Opioids	42.6%
Safety (Interpersonal, IPV, Abuse...)	21.5%
Transportation	20.9%
Suicide	20.4%
Financial	16.2%

# COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM EXPANSION PILOT YEAR 2

## PROGRAM DESIGN

Screening  
Referral workflow

- Social Drivers of Health
- Developmental Screenings
- Integrating DULCE in practices teams
- Attestation
- Quality Improvement

## MEASUREMENT & EVALUATION

Outcome measures  
Data collection processes

- Chart review
  - Interpret Screening and report out
- Qualitative**
- Patient surveys and interviews
  - Provider Survey/Interviews
  - CHT surveys
- Quantitative analyses** will be complete in 2025

## PAYMENT

Review of current funding mechanisms  
Evolution of new payment methods

- Payments to enhance staffing
- Staffing recommendation guide
- Medicaid investment only but staff serves all
- Updated Attestation to commitment of goals.

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH SUPPORTS PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS BY OFFERING

- **Lunch and Learn** – listed on website  
(Example: Dementia, RETAIN, Dept of Mental Health 988 and many more)
- **CARE series** – Collaboration to advance mental health treatment and substance use disorder recovery
- **CHT Trainings** –  
Pediatric model in conjunction with Family Child Health  
Structural Competency and cultural Humility to address  
disparities and inequity  
Pride Center Webinars  
Motivational Interviewing  
Community Health Worker and CHW Supervisor

## RESOURCES

Blueprint for Health Manual and Implementation  
<https://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/implementation-materials>

Blueprint Website  
<https://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/>

Expansion Attestation  
[https://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/sites/bfh/files/doc\\_library/BPCHT\\_Expansion\\_Attestation\\_Fillable%20-%20Julie%20and%20Mara.pdf](https://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/sites/bfh/files/doc_library/BPCHT_Expansion_Attestation_Fillable%20-%20Julie%20and%20Mara.pdf)

Expansion Proposal Report and Workgroups  
<https://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/expansion-proposal-workgroups>

## RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

### Community Profiles

<https://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/community-health-profiles>

### PII Evaluation

<https://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/womens-health-initiative-profiles>

### H&S/MAT Evaluation/Profiles

<https://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/hub-and-spoke-profiles> ;

<https://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/reports-and-articles/journal-articles>

### Annual Report

<https://blueprintforhealth.vermont.gov/annual-reports>



# QUESTIONS?

John M. Saroyan, MD

Executive Director

[John.M.Saroyan@vermont.gov](mailto:John.M.Saroyan@vermont.gov)

Addie Armstrong, Ph.D

Data Analytics and Info Administrator

[Addie.Armstrong@vermont.gov](mailto:Addie.Armstrong@vermont.gov)

Caleb Denton

Data Analytics and Info Administrator

[Caleb.Denton@vermont.gov](mailto:Caleb.Denton@vermont.gov)

Mara Krause Donohue

Assistant Director

[Mara.Donohue@vermont.gov](mailto:Mara.Donohue@vermont.gov)

Jennifer Herwood

Payment Operations Administrator

[Jennifer.Herwood@vermont.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Herwood@vermont.gov)

Kara Hooper

Program Administrator

[Kara.Hooper@vermont.gov](mailto:Kara.Hooper@vermont.gov)

Erin Just

Quality Improvement Facilitator Coordinator

[Erin.Just@partner.vermont.gov](mailto:Erin.Just@partner.vermont.gov)

Julie Parker LCMHC, CCM

Assistant Director

[Julie.Parker@vermont.gov](mailto:Julie.Parker@vermont.gov)

BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH



THANK YOU

