

Vermont Psychological Association

The Vermont psychological Association (VPA) is a respected source of information for legislators and a strong advocacy voice for mental health services in Vermont.

VPA offers a professional affiliation, a place to meet your colleagues, continuing education, newsletters about psychology and important state issues, and a place to go to get information and support.



Working Hand in Hand with our Legislature

Our Action Team:

Alexandra Forbes, MA
Legislative Chair and Lobbyist

Zatz and Renfrew Consulting
Legislative Monitoring Agency

The VPA Legislative Committee has been working with the consulting firm, Zatz & Renfrew, on a number of issues in conjunction with other professional and advocacy groups.

We are committed to act diligently to promote our initiatives in a number of ways as we tackle the current legislative issues.

VPA is in a crucial and important position to impact regulatory and legislative activities as they impact the delivery of mental health services in Vermont.

We have been asked to participate in the rule-making process. We are continuing to attend meetings and to meet with concerned parties, legislators and key political figures.

We plan to continue to hold public forums to help articulate and educate the public and policy makers about current actions and activities of managed care companies as they impact access to MH/SA treatment.



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GUIDE TO LEGISLATIVE ACTION



Visit us on the Web
www.vermontpsych.org

Working for Members

Goals:

- Protect resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Ensure private practice representation in primary care access-expansion study group
- Advocate for mental health parity and fair pay in the development of a single-payer healthcare system
- Educate and lobby the legislature
- Sustain the viability of VPA to allow continued ability to work for members
- Continue to present quality and affordable continuing education programming
- Continue bi-annual production of *The Vermont Psychologist Newsletter*



Working for Mental Health

VPA has lobbied for and achieved:

- Mental and physical health parity law
- Rules for Banking and Insurance to assure that parity is financial, administrative, and timely
- First-in-nation law which requires insurers and management companies to disclose financial data and their loss ratio (treatment dollars)
- Passage of any willing provider legislation that allows providers open access to managed care networks
- Elimination of managed oversight of clinical therapeutic sessions at Medicaid
- Restoration of fair pay for 1 ½ hours psychotherapy (CPT 90808)
- Medicaid's continuing to fully cover Medicare copays – preventing a 40% reduction to psychologists who accept both insurances.
- Improved parity in Medicaid's mental health payments resulting in increased pay rates for many psychologists



Impact:

The large impact that our small working group can have on mental health policy and industry behavior may be of critical help and benefit for psychologists across the country by setting precedent in these political arenas.

The greater our number of voices, the greater our strength to make a difference for the psychological community.

If you know of someone who is not a member of VPA, please encourage them to join.

Membership application and CE workshop registration forms available on our website:
www.vermontpsych.org

Thank you for your support!