



AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES DIVISION

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To: Monica White, Commissioner
Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Commissioner
Bard Hill, Principal Assistant

From: Angela Smith-Dieng, Director, Adult Services Division
Jennifer Garabedian, Director, Developmental Disabilities Services Division

Re: NASDDDS and ADvancing States NCI IPS Surveys 2022-2023

Date: April 25, 2022

For the following reasons, we recommend continuing the pause on Vermont's participation in the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and ADvancing States National Core Indicators (NCI) In-Person Surveys (IPS):

- Neither DDS nor ASD currently has the internal resources to manage this project.
 - The NCI IPS is a complex and time intensive endeavor that, even with a contractor, takes a considerable amount of DDS and ASD staff time to manage.
- Both Divisions have projects that are high priority and time sensitive.
 - These projects will have a greater direct impact on the lives of people in services than implementing the NCI surveys.
- All our providers continue to experience a direct support worker crisis.
 - This has been identified as one of the most challenging aspects of service provision at this time and asking for participation from our provider partners is not reasonable.
- As Vermont moves from the pandemic to endemic stage of COVID-19, the public health emergency remains a factor.
 - It was considerably challenging for NCI States who tried to implement the IPS in FY 21 and FY22 using remote surveying.
 - Based on Vermont's experiences with remote access by people in services this past year, we are concerned that this will affect the efficacy of the survey as it is expected that some measure of remote surveying would be required.

We appreciate that the NCI data has been used to demonstrate quality measures for Vermont. Our Quality Teams are working closely with our AHS partners to ensure we continue to report meaningful outcome measures.

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Adult Services

Vocational Rehabilitation

Developmental Disabilities Services

Blind and Visually Impaired