



VAHHS 2023 Legislative Session Preview



**Vermont Association
of Hospitals
and Health Systems**

Vermont's Political Landscape

- Republican Phil Scott re-elected as governor
- Massive turnover: 40 vacancies in House and Senate filled
- Democrats have supermajority in House and Senate
 - Republicans have lost ability to sustain gubernatorial veto



Access: Workforce

- 2022 Programs just getting started:
 - \$400k in grants to critical access hospital-employed nurses to serve as clinical education preceptors
 - \$2.5 million to health care organizations to establish nursing pipelines
- Apprenticeship licensure



Access: Mental Health

- ED daily rate permanent and sustainable
- Licensure for out-of-state mental health professionals in good standing
- Expand current capacity with more inpatient beds, psychiatric urgent care, step-up and step-down beds, and intensive outpatient care, including partial hospitalization and assertive community treatment
- Alternatives to emergency departments, such as mobile crisis units and EmPATH units
- Stand up a state telepsychiatry network
- Create a certification process for peer support

Access: Public Safety

- Treat workplace violence in health care facilities like domestic violence incidents and have law enforcement remove the perpetrator immediately
- Create and support a formal forensic system of care for individuals who are involved with the justice system
- Develop a restoration of competency program to allow for individuals to stand trial and increase capacity for other patients
- Create and increase placements for intoxicated and incapacitated individuals
- Address gun violence as a public health issue and adopt reasonable gun safety initiatives

Access: Long Term Care

- Allocate resources to stabilize long-term care and post-acute providers
- Increased Medicaid reimbursement for long-term care facilities and home health agencies
- Support primary care investments to bolster physician services in skilled nursing facilities
- Remove federal regulatory barriers for skilled nursing facilities to allow increased use of advanced practice providers and telehealth

Access: Regulatory Opportunities

- Temporary licenses for out-of-state health care professionals in good standing
- Application of expedited certificate of need process to emergency departments needing to expand due to increased capacity
- Regulate payment model over hospitals

