

# VETN Advisory Board

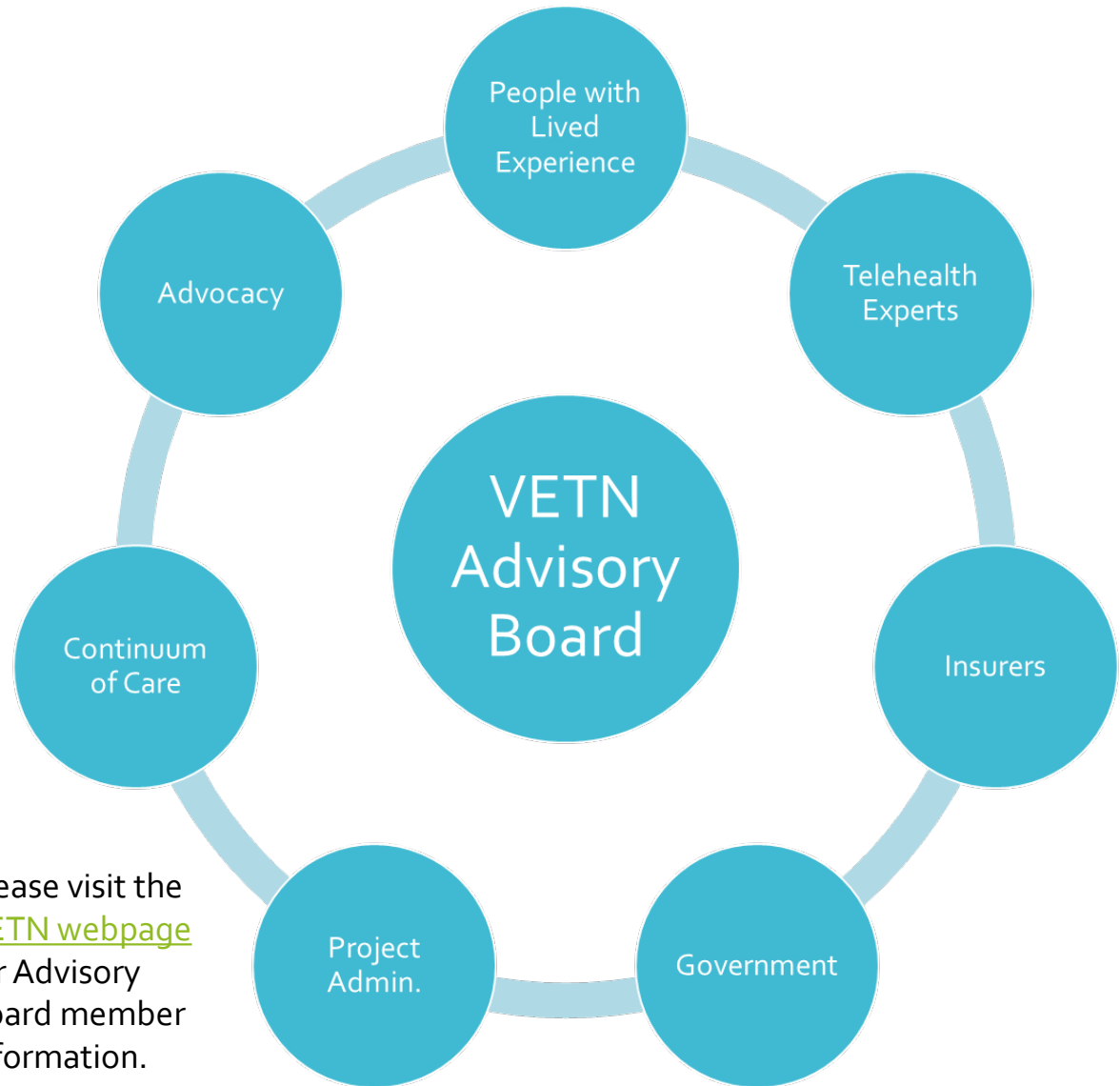
February 10, 2023

Ali Johnson, MBA | Quality Improvement Specialist

# Today's Agenda

- Membership & Introductions
- Recommendations
- Vision & Purpose
- Project Scope & Capacity
- Timeline & Project Updates
- Aspirations

# Advisory Board Membership



Please visit the [VETN webpage](#) for Advisory Board member information.



# Introductions

What is your name, title, and organization?





# Recommendations

# VERMONT EMERGENCY TELEPSYCHIATRY NETWORK

NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT

20  
22



## Recommendations



1. VETN should have five areas of focus:
  - Program Management
  - Training
  - Demonstration Projects
  - Hospital Enhancements
  - Evaluation
2. Convene an advisory board that meets regularly to discuss the program and inform decision making.



## Recommendations



3. Take care when vetting potential emergency telepsychiatry vendors.
4. When selecting critical access hospital (CAH) pilot site, consider a hospital that already has a strong relationship with the local mental health resources.
5. An independent organization should perform program and economic evaluation.
6. Determine how the VETN will complement other existing services offered in Vermont EDs, such as peer support services and services provided by the Designated Agencies.



# Vision & Purpose

# Vision



Vermonters with mental health needs receive the highest quality of coordinated services along the continuum of care.

image credit: [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

## Purpose

Vermont Emergency  
Telepsychiatry  
Network

# VETN

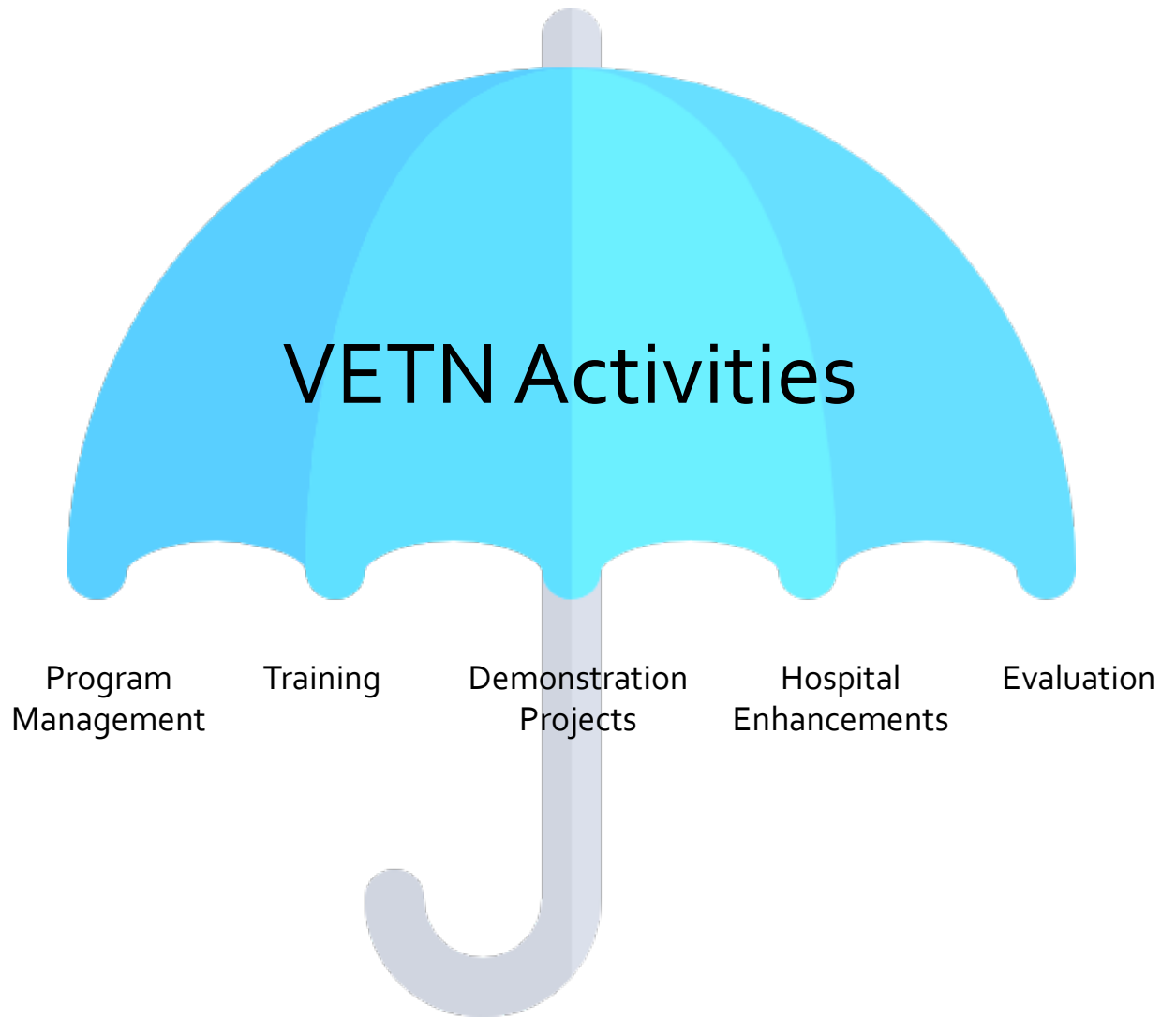


a **statewide** system helping Vermont  
**EDs** provide timely **psychiatric** care  
via **telehealth** for individuals with  
**mental health** needs

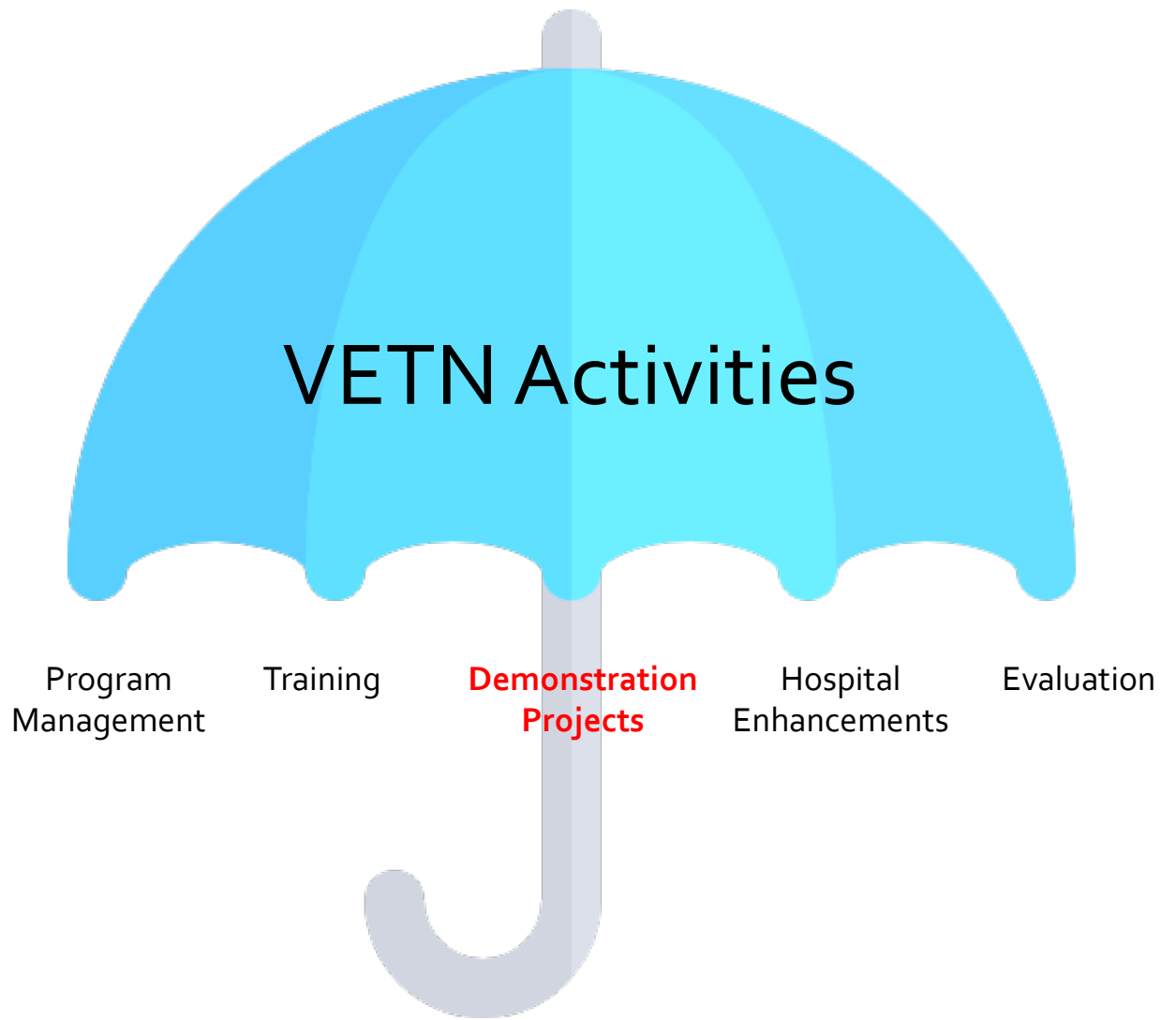


# Project Scope & Capacity

# Project Scope

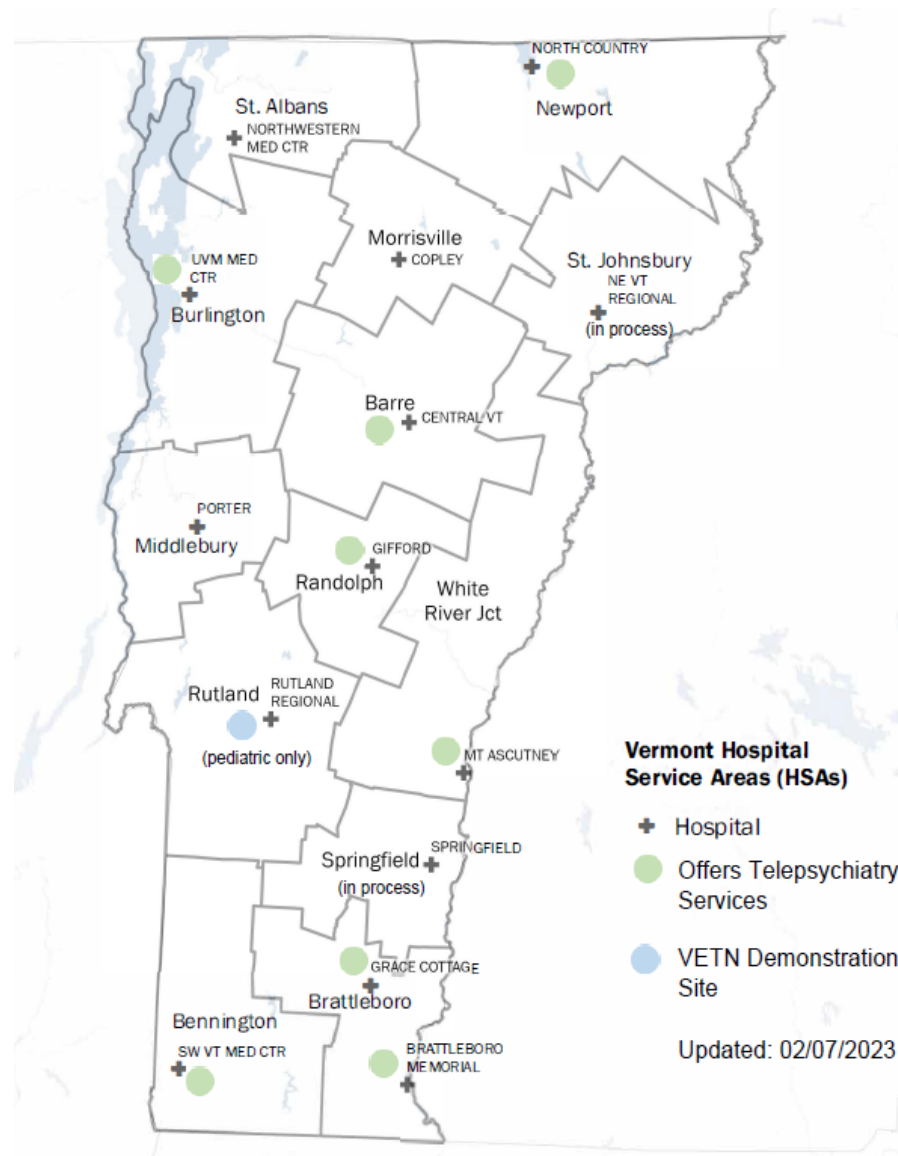


# Project Scope



# Capacity

VERMONT HOSPITALS  
OFFERING EMERGENCY  
TELEPSYCHIATRY SERVICES







# Project Updates & Timeline

## Demonstration Projects

- Mid-Sized Hospital (RRMC):
  - Receiving child telepsychiatry service from the Brattleboro Retreat.
  - 4 Brattleboro providers credentialed and enrolled for RRMC billing purposes.
  - Went live on January 12, 2023.
- Critical Access Hospital (CAH), TBD:
  - To establish a system for telepsychiatry services in the ED.
  - Readiness assessment will be used to select the CAH to host the second demonstration project.

# CAH Readiness Assessment

Hospitals that responded to the May 2022 survey and indicated their interest in beginning to offer emergency telepsychiatry service.

## Eligibility

- Copley
- NVRH
- Porter
- Gifford (?)

Incentive \$10,000

## Next Steps

- Complete final VPQHC review.
- Invite eligible hospitals to complete the assessment.

## Request for Information

- To vet potential vendors for the CAH demonstration project.
- The information collected will be shared with the chosen hospital so they can make the final decision.

# Request for Information

**Business to Business**  
Vermont Department of Economic Development

**ThinkVermont.com**

Home

To print, go to File on the menu bar and select Print.

**Emergency Telepsychiatry Services - VETN Demonstration Project**

**VERMONT PROGRAM FOR QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE, INC.**

132 Main St Ste 1  
Montpelier, VT 05602-3226

**Bid Type:**  
**Request for Information**

**Request Date:** 2/10/2023 10:44:44 AM  
**Open Date:**  
**Closing Date:** 2/24/2023 10:00 PM  
**Intent To Bid Deadline:**  
**Est. Dollar Value:** \$0.00  
**RFQ Number:**

<http://www.vermontbusinessregistry.com/BidPreview.aspx?BidID=57456>

- Volunteers to participate in vendor interviews? Contact:
  - Reid Plimpton, MPH (he/his)
  - rplimpton@mcd.org
  - 207-622-7566 x298 | Cell: 603-630-5668
- Suggestions for vendors to receive the notice?

## VT/NC Collaboration

Vermont is emulating the NC Statewide Telepsychiatry Program (NC-STeP) to increase timely psychiatric care via telehealth in the emergency department setting in rural areas of our state.

VPQHC is excited to be mentored by Dr. Sy Saeed and the NC-STeP team as we design and implement a new statewide system to address currently unmet mental health needs.

We are grateful to the NC-STeP team for their invaluable technical assistance and support as we begin scaling up the telepsychiatry network operations through our first two demonstration projects.

We look forward to our continued collaboration and future success.



Catherine Fulton, MS, CPHQ  
Executive Director, VPQHC



<https://ncstep.ecu.edu/>

# Timeline

## FEB

- Assess CAH readiness
- Select CAH for demonstration project
- Publish RFI
- Interview potential vendors
- Submit legislative proposal

## APR

- Create in-person training
- Create web-based training
- Order equipment
- Credential CAH vendor
- Order equipment

## MAR

- Contract with CAH for demonstration project
- ID vendor for CAH demo project
- Request best practice
- Scan for training content
- Convene Evaluation Committee
- Identify evaluation questions



# Aspirations





Within the ED setting and the purpose of caring for people with mental health needs...

- What is the feasible scope?
- What do you want the network to accomplish?
- What do you want to get out of the network?
- What would your ask be?

# Contact

Ali Johnson, MBA

Quality Improvement Specialist

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(802) 262-1305



image credit:

<https://www.roamingtheusa.com/winter-in-vermont/>