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**Department of Health**  
*Office of the Commissioner*

To: Joint Fiscal Committee  
From: Barbara Cimaglio  
Re: Update on Chittenden Pilot  
Date: 11/12/09

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I am writing to give you an update on the progress of the Chittenden Pilot to improve substance abuse treatment by integrating services, and the additional funds allocated to this project in the FY10 ADAP budget.

As of my last report to JFC, no action had been taken by Maple Leaf and Howard to implement the Chittenden Pilot. Bill Young reported that he was looking for a suitable building to house the new parts of the program.

Subsequently we received FY 2011 budget instructions which require departments to identify 20% reductions in Global Commitment spending and 8% reductions in General Fund spending. I spoke to Bill Young about the challenge of launching a new initiative at a time when we are cutting ongoing programs, unless offsetting cost savings can be counted on to fund the expansion. Bill's estimate was that the full-year budget requirement would be at least \$1M. He replied that our fiscal caution would cause him to stop working on this project. He noted that they had been very close to coming to an agreement on a building site, and he would have to halt the negotiations due to the possibility that the State was not able to continue its support for the project. I assured him that we supported the concept, but the uncertain financial situation made it challenging for us to recommend going forward at this time. I indicated that I was willing to continue the planning process, including meeting with Fletcher Allen and local law enforcement to see what interim program changes might be feasible.

Bill replied by sharing his disagreement with our decision while acknowledging the seriousness of Vermont's fiscal situation.

BC

Cc: Jim Reardon, Rob Hofmann, Wendy Davis, Jim Giffin