

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Fiscal Committee  
Mental Health Oversight Committee

FROM: Christine M. Oliver, Commissioner  
Department of Mental Health

DATE: July 13, 2011 (THIS IS THE FIRST QUARTER REPORT FOR JFC  
THAT HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED IN THE JFC FILE. IT IS BEING  
SUBMITTED IN JULY TO COMPLETE THE RECORD.)

RE: **Act 43 of 2009 Required Updates on the Secure Recovery Residence**

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The Department of Mental Health (DMH) provides this quarterly update on progress toward developing a secure residential facility to replace 15 Vermont State Hospital beds. On January 5, 2011, the Commissioner of BISHCA issued a Certificate of Need to DMH subject to the project description, a construction start date within two years of the CON, and full implementation within five years. Please find the Final Statement of Decision at <http://www.bishca.state.vt.us/sites/default/files/10-001-HFinalSOD.pdf> and Certificate of Need at <http://www.bishca.state.vt.us/sites/default/files/10-001-HFinalCON.pdf>.

As the Governor indicated in his budget address, development of a secure residential program has been suspended. Replacement of the existing Vermont State Hospital with a state-of-the-art health care facility appropriate to its clinical mission, expansion of acute inpatient capacity at the Brattleboro Retreat, and partnerships with community hospitals are being explored. This assessment is required prior to moving forward with a single component of an overall plan for VSH replacement.

Accordingly, DMH has initiated planning for a VSH replacement facility while seeking to determine the interest in and viability of partnerships with the Brattleboro Retreat and community hospitals.