

Division of Developmental Services  
May 20, 1997

#### STATE DS OFFICIALS MEET

On May 1st and 2nd, state Developmental Services officials from New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont met in Brattleboro to discuss current practices and future plans in the three states. Topics included eligibility determination, waiting lists, funding processes, outcome measurement, structure of community services, governance on boards of directors, managed care for long term needs and for health care, children and family services, implementation of EPSDT, self-determination, types of residential settings, and many other areas of interest.

New Hampshire and Rhode Island are also involved in broad based system change activities, including self-determination and managed care. Although we share goals and philosophies, each state has approached the challenge differently. The meeting provided an opportunity for substantive discussions regarding how each state deals with service cost and budgeting, caseload increase, quality assurance and self-directed services.

This gathering gave everyone a chance to share ideas, compare experiences, and more importantly, challenge assumptions and practices that differed between and within states. It is hoped this stimulating exchange will continue with periodic gatherings as well as extensive collaboration on outcome measures and quality assurance techniques.

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