

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
March 24, 1996

MULTIPLYING THE POWER OF THE SELF-DETERMINATION PROJECT

The Division of Developmental Disabilities has joined forces with the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council and the University of Vermont in an effort to increase the scope of the DDS Robert Wood Johnson self-determination grant. The DD Council recently approved a request for \$62,859 to supplement the DDS Self-Determination Project. Concurrently, the University Affiliated Program at UVM anticipates reauthorization of their Family Support Grant from which a match of \$74,693 is expected to go into the Self-Determination Project.

These affiliated grants, along with anticipated federal Medicaid matching funds, quadruple the power of the RWJ self-determination grant as it currently exists. This expansion of the grant supports the development of four regional facilitation teams, each made up of a consumer, family member and provider, that will offer a variety of consultation and resource options. The upgraded project also increases focus on the development, coordination and implementation of training and technical assistance.

TRULY SELF-DETERMINED ADVERTISING

In recognition of Disability Awareness Month, the Division of Developmental Services took advantage of discounted public service announcement rates offer by WJJR in Rutland to put together two radio spots on Self-Determination. One of the 30 second announcements gives a brief description of the Robert Wood Johnson Self-Determination grant awarded to DDS. The second and more powerful message is spoken in the voice of a young man who receives services from a local agency. It is in this voice of clarity that comes of personal knowledge and experience that Vermonters will hear about the power of "self-determination" and what it can mean for people with developmental disabilities. This is the voice of true self determination.

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