

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

September 17, 1997

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION SELF DETERMINATION GRANT UPDATE

Effective August 11, 1997, Michelle Sures has begun working as the Project Administrator for the RWJ Self Determination grant. Over the next few months, she will be working closely with consumers, families, advocates, providers, and other personnel on self-directed service initiatives and activities. She will begin by making personal contacts with representatives from the various stakeholder groups throughout Vermont. In collaboration with these groups, she will recruit and hire four regional teams in the four corners of the state, with representative facilitators of consumers, advocates, and providers. These teams will provide facilitation and support, training, education, and implementation of self-directed service initiatives.

The Administrator will also establish a statewide network of stakeholders, who will meet on a regular basis to share information, and develop local resources to enhance and create consumer-directed services. A Project Advisory Board will be organized, with a representative group of the Network, to provide input, direction, and feedback regarding project activities.

Another key initiative will be the development of statewide capacity for training and technical assistance. This will be done in collaboration with the University Affiliated Program at the University of Vermont.

In addition, as the project progresses there will be technical issues which will be identified and need to be resolved in order for consumer-directed services to be progressive and succeed. Information and technical assistance related to these technical issues will be necessary in order to facilitate and create alternative support options.

The RWJ Self Determination grant is a very exciting opportunity for consumers, families, and providers to explore, create, and enhance a variety of new support options and to develop consumer-directed services for people with developmental disabilities. For more information, please contact Michelle Sures at the Division of Developmental Services, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 telephone: 802-241-2617.