

From: Vermont State Program Standing Committee for Developmental Disabilities Services  
To: ACT 27 Working Group on Policies Pertaining to Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Who Are Criminal-Justice Involved  
Date: October 23, 2023  
Subject: Proposed Forensic Facility

We, the undersigned, as members of the State Program Standing Committee for Developmental Disability Services, strongly oppose the proposed plan that people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) should be housed and treated in a forensic facility as outlined by Act 27. The Vermont State Program Standing Committee is a Governor-appointed body with the mandate of advising the Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD). We are self-advocates, clinicians, academics, agency administrators, attorneys, family members, direct support personnel, advocates and interested citizens.

In lieu of placing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a forensic facility, we recommend that the State of Vermont allocate the necessary resources into the Home and Community Based Services System, which supports people with I/DD in the least restrictive setting. In the 1990's, the State of Vermont recognized that placing people with I/DD in institutional settings was wrong, and, subsequently, the Brandon Training Center was closed. Since that time, housing, supports, and services have been successfully implemented in community-based settings.

Barbara Lee and Bethany Drum, Co-Chairs

David Ballou, Max Barrows, Chad Cleverly, Ed Place, Karen Price,

Barbara Prine, Cheryl Thrall, Collins Twing, Susan Yuan,

Connie Woodberry