

VERMONT PSYCHIATRIC CARE HOSPITAL
350 FISHER ROAD
BERLIN, VERMONT

Q: Who is treated at the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital?

A: The hospital is a secure facility providing acute care for involuntarily hospitalized adults diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder.

Q: How does this new state of the art State Psychiatric Hospital in Berlin fit into changes made in the statewide model of mental health care since Tropical Storm Irene?

A: Act 79, the legislature's comprehensive plan for mental health care in Vermont launched a system transformation that has made many inroads in expanding mental health treatment services statewide. Improvements continue to be made under Act 79 and further developmental activities will extend into the future.

The enhanced comprehensive system of community mental health treatment services has been significantly furthered by the opening of the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH).

Q: What is the philosophy of care at VPCH?

A: VPCH employees promote a highly respectful, recovery-oriented, trauma-informed treatment environment where the safety of patients, staff and hospital visitors is carefully protected.

In keeping with the belief that mental health recovery truly occurs in our communities, the hospital will serve the most acutely ill while they need this level of care. The progress already made, and still to be made through new programs coming on line in the near future, will offer step-down and alternative community-based program options for individuals who need additional transition re-entry services through these alternative programs.

Q: Do other hospitals in Vermont provide inpatient psychiatric care for these individuals?

A: The opening of these 25 hospital beds at VPCH marks the completion of a decentralized 45 bed continuum of inpatient services that is now available, with our partner hospitals Rutland Regional Medical Center and Brattleboro Retreat, for all Vermonters with this level of acute mental health treatment needs.

Q: How was this hospital developed?

A: This beautiful facility was designed with input of multiple stakeholder groups which included individuals with lived experience within the mental health system, as well as family and a wide range of other community members who have demonstrated interest and commitment to achieving the highest possible level of inpatient psychiatric patient care.

Q: What values guided the design of the hospital?

A: Great attention was paid to environmental details that support patient and staff safety, optimal monitoring and accessibility, and increasing opportunities for patient autonomy both in the hospital and in the beautiful outdoor spaces during an individual's hospitalization and recovery.