



Emergency Involuntary Procedures Review Committee
Report to the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Mental Health
July 1, 2023- June 30, 2023 (FY23)

About

The Emergency Involuntary Procedures (EIP) Review Committee is a committee convened by the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health (Department) to review emergency involuntary procedures occurring on inpatient psychiatric units for those in the custody of the Commissioner. The Committee’s responsibilities will be to review aggregate data, review inpatient hospitals’ adherence to the requirements of the CMS and Joint Commission standards, to review the appropriateness of the decision(s) to use emergency involuntary procedures to ensure that there is external review and oversight of emergency involuntary procedures, and to prepare an annual report to the Department summarizing its work, providing suggestions and recommendations regarding the hospitals’ adherence to CMS & Joint Commission standards.

This report is submitted on behalf of the EIP Review Committee in accordance with Vermont Regulation for Establishing Standards for Involuntary Procedures (EIP Administrative Rule, adopted July 2016):

The Review Committee shall prepare an annual report summarizing its advisory work, providing suggestions and recommendations regarding adherence to these standards, including trends in the frequency in the use of emergency involuntary procedures, findings relative to compliance with the requirements for the use of such procedures, the need for staff training, and other related matters.

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Membership

Please see below the roster of Committee members/staff representatives updated during FY23:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Becca Brown Alix Goldschmidt Sherry Providence Amelia Shillingford	Brattleboro Retreat (BR)
Kimberly Cookson Terri Graham	Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC)
Caitlin Miller Tonya Davis	Designated Agency (DA) Representative
Suzanne Leavitt	DAIL/Division of Licensing and Protection
Steve DeVoe Kelley Klein Allie Nerenberg	Department of Mental Health (DMH)
Zachary Hughes Marla Simpson	Peer Representative
Laurie Emerson	Peer or Family Representative
Lesla Cathcart Matthew Sommons	Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC)
Darcy Bixby	Springfield Hospital – Windham Center
Jessica Charbonneau	University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMC)
Jeremy Smith Stephanie Shaw	Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH)
Jonathan Hastings Kristin Husher	Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
David Horton Jennifer Rowell Laura Lyford	<i>Staff Support - DMH</i>



Vermont Cooperative
for Practice Improvement
& Innovation

Karen Barber Laura Flint	
Kevin Huckshorn (6CS Trainer) Janice Lebel (6CS Trainer) Alex Lehning	<i>Facilitator</i> - Vermont Cooperative for Practice Improvement & Innovation



Committee Meetings 2022-2023

The Committee meets on a (no less than) quarterly basis in accordance with open meeting protocols. The following meetings were held virtually during this period:

- September 9, 2022
- December 9, 2022
- March 9, 2023
- June 9, 2023

Copies of agendas, minutes, data reports, and presentations are archived and available at:

<https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/about-us/boards-and-committees/emergency-involuntary-procedures-eip-review-committee>

Committee Updates & Recommendations 2022-2023

Each committee member was invited to share an update/recommendation for meeting goals as well as any questions or recommendations for the Commissioner in December 2022 and June 2023. COVID-19, staffing shortages, and internal leadership transitions all impacted Committee attendance as well as data reporting timing in FY23.

Beginning in 2022, the EIP Review Committee agenda was updated by VCPI to include individual reporting and updates from all members, including hospitals. These updates were separate from the formal data reporting and included discussions around:

- Recruitment and retention; hiring
- Reflections on 6CS training, implementation, and sustainability needs
- Upgrades to unit facilities & grounds

These updates are included in the minutes. One additional recommendation was identified during this cycle:

1. Members asked for clarification and development of a standardized communications policy for consumers regarding their ability/capacity to bring individual EIP case reviews to the committee.

Next Steps

DMH will resume facilitation from VCPI beginning in FY24.