
MEMORANDUM

TO: Doug Racine, Secretary of Agency of Human Services (AHS)
FROM: Mark Larson; Commissioner, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)
RE: Barbara Groff – Contract #25620

DVHA seeks to establish a contract with Barbara Groff for services as a Quality Improvement Practice Facilitator. The intent of the Vermont General Assembly as expressed in Act 128 (2010) is to include all willing primary care providers in the Vermont Blueprint for Health. To support the implementation of this intent, the Contractor will serve as a Practice Facilitator (1.0 FTE) to coach 8 to 10 primary care practices, supporting them to become and maintain their status as Blueprint Advanced Primary Care Practices. In addition Barbara will assist in facilitating process improvement in primary care, specialty care and methadone clinics a component of the Hub and Spoke initiative, an effort expand and improve care for people who experience opiate addiction.

Practice facilitation will be tailored to helping each practice be successful in implementing and managing quality improvement initiatives, including NCQA (National Committee for Quality Assurance) Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) or Specialty Practice recognition; effective use of information technology (IT) systems, such as registries (Covisint DocSite) and portals to improve patient care; integration of self-management support, shared decision making, and planned care visits; redefining roles and establishing team-based care; and seamlessly connecting with community resources and specialty referrals (such as with the Community Health Team).

In an open bid process, Ms. Groff has demonstrated the skills and competencies to do the work within the allowable contract amount.

DVHA feels it is in the best interest of the State at this time establish a contract for Barbara Groff's services for the reasons listed above. DVHA's funding for this contract is covered by the Global Commitment to Health Appropriations and complies with all mandatory provisions of AOA Bulletin 3.5.